

STARS AND STRIPES®

Phish takes final bow

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From left, Page McConnell, Trey Anastasio, Jon Fishman and Mike Gordon



U.S. tanks rolling closer toward holy shrine in Najaf

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Stars and Stripes' guide to this year's election

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2004

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From left, Michael Phelps of the United States, Ian Thorpe of Australia and Pieter van den Hoogenband of the Netherlands

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PHOTOS BY MARNI MCENTEE/Stars and Stripes

Left: Airmen from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, shake hands with base leaders Monday before boarding a bus to the airport on their way to a six-month tour in the Middle East. Above: Staff Sgt. Sterling Fernandez kisses his 14-month-old son, Brandon. Sixty members of the 52nd Security Forces Squadron are deploying. "I just ask you one big favor: Come back," said Senior Master Sgt. James Erwin, security forces manager for the squadron.

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and Stripes.



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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Twins on the mend: The 2-year-old twins whose conjoined heads were surgically separated this month, are making a rapid recovery, one of their surgeons said.

"They're behaving like babies who have had a craniofacial operation half as long as theirs," said David Staffenberg, one of the boys' surgeons at Montefiore Medical Center.

The Filipino twins, Clarence and Carl Aguirre, underwent a 17-hour procedure to be separated on Aug. 4.

School ruling upheld: A Florida law that allows students at failing public schools to attend private schools at taxpayers' expense is unconstitutional, a state appeals court ruled Monday.

The decision by the 1st District Court of Appeal upholds a ruling by a trial judge saying the state constitution forbids the use of tax money to send youngsters to religious schools.

The law has been in force during the state's appeal, which now goes to the Florida Supreme Court.

World

Pope 'seriously weakened': One of 15 cardinals with Pope John Paul II during a week-end visit to a French shrine was quoted in Belgian media Monday as saying the ailing pontiff was "seriously weakened" and may have been making his farewells.

"It was one of the most moving celebrations ever," Belgian Cardinal Godfried Danneels, who is seen as a possible future pope, was quoted in two newspapers as saying from Lourdes, France, on Sunday.

"The pope is seriously weakened," he said. "When the pope says, 'I end my pilgrimage here,' then that can be taken two ways ... his farewell to Lourdes and maybe to his life."

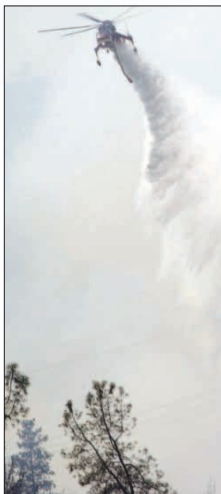
Monday was an official holiday at the Vatican, and church officials did not immediately issue any comment on the cardinal's assessment of the pope's health.

Rwandan troops arrive in Sudan: About 140 Rwandan soldiers arrived in Sudan's troubled Darfur region, becoming the first foreign armed force deployed in the Iraq-sized region since Arab militiamen began attacking black African farmers.

The Rwandan contingent was airlifted to Darfur to protect unarmed military observers monitoring a four-month cease-fire between Sudanese government forces and rebels.

They are part of a 300-member African Union protection force Sudan was pressed to allow into Darfur, where thousands of civilians have been killed, more than a million forced from their homes and some 2.2 million left in urgent need of aid in what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Separatists killed: Separatist fighters



Wildfires: Helitankers try to halt the spread of the fire as it travels west along Highway 299 in French Gulch, Calif., Sunday. More than 1,000 firefighters battled a wind-driven wildfire that roared through this old mining town in Northern California, destroying more than 20 homes and forcing 300 residents to evacuate. A portion of state Highway 299 was closed. Firefighters, including about 400 state prison inmates, saved several buildings including a church, post office, hotel and elementary school. Two commercial buildings were destroyed.

killed two government peacekeepers in Georgia's breakaway South Ossetia region early Monday, prompting the Georgian defense minister to warn about "a real threat of war."

The rebellious region has posed a stiff challenge to Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili, whose efforts at reuniting the nation have collided with residents' hopes of joining Russia after more than a decade of de facto independence from Georgia.

Chess champion appeals to Powell: Former chess champion Bobby Fischer announced plans Monday in Tokyo to marry a leading Japanese chess official and appealed to Secretary of State Colin Powell to help him renounce U.S. citizenship, the latest in a series of moves as he seeks to block attempts to deport him to the United States.

Fischer, wanted in the United States for violating international sanctions by playing a

match in the former Yugoslavia in 1992, was detained in Japan last month when trying to travel on a revoked American passport.

Fischer's lawyer, Masako Suzuki, said the former world champion and Japan Chess Association President Miyoko Watai had signed marriage papers that would be submitted later Monday.

The two had been living together since 2000 and decided to legally formalize their relationship, Suzuki said in a statement.

Fischer

N. Korea nuclear talks: North Korea's government said Monday it would not attend working meetings ahead of six-party talks on its nuclear program and blasted the United States for demands that the North fully disclose its nuclear activities.

The North's Foreign Ministry said Washington was still showing hostile intentions toward the communist nation.

The United States has said it would like to convene a working party meeting of participants in the six-nation talks as soon as possible to prepare for the next session, expected by the end of September. Along with the United States and North Korea, the talks include South Korea, China, Japan and Russia. At the latest talks in June, North Korea offered to freeze its nuclear program in exchange for energy, lifting of U.S. economic sanctions and removal from Washington's list of state sponsors of terrorism.

Business

EU complains about air fares: The European Union's head office stepped up pressure Monday on Italy to explain its decision to force rivals of struggling flag carrier Alitalia to raise prices on long-haul flights from Rome.

"Fares going up is not good for consumers," said Amelia Torres, spokeswoman at the European Commission.

She said the commission's competition authorities had sent a new letter to Rome outlining their concerns and were awaiting a reply, "probably in September."

British Airways, which was ordered to raise fares on its flights from Rome to New York via London, has called Italy's action unfair and complained to Brussels.

Anti-piracy software deal reviewed: European antitrust regulators said Monday they have extended their review of a deal between Microsoft Corp. and Time Warner Inc. to make anti-piracy software together.

European Commission spokeswoman Amelia Torres declined to give a reason for the extension, but such a step usually means regulators need extra time to review concessions offered by the companies to address competition concerns.

Under the new timetable, the commission must decide by Aug. 25 whether to clear the deal or open a second-phase, in-depth probe, which takes four months.

Washington-based Microsoft announced plans in April to buy Xerox Corp.'s stake in ContentGuard Inc., which makes programs used to protect digital media from illegal copying.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Messages of Support

★ R. Stonestreet, We are incredibly proud of you! Thank you for your willingness to support this honorable effort! You are in our constant thoughts and prayers! Hope to see you soon! Kevin and Glenn Hendrickson

You are in our thoughts and prayers each day. We pray for your success in the war efforts and your safe return. Thank you for what you are doing. Know that the people in San Diego are supporting you and are

★ To A. Weber and All Our Troops:

behind you all the way!!!! Love, Dani, Dave, Jordan, and Scott

★ THANK YOU!!!! We're all thinking about you! Michael

U.S. tanks move closer to shrine in Najaf

Iraqi National Conference sends delegation to help end uprising

BY ABDUL HUSSEIN
AL-OBEIDI

The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — With U.S. tanks rolling closer to a holy Shiite shrine in Najaf, participants at a national conference voted Monday to send a delegation here to coax firebrand cleric Muqtada al-Sadr to end his renewed uprising against U.S. forces.

The violence in Najaf, which started Aug. 5, threatened to destabilize the new interim government, already coping with a Sunni insurgency, and overshadowed the conference in Baghdad, intended to be a first step on the country's road to democracy.

American tanks edged to within 500 yards of Najaf's Imam Ali shrine, Iraq's holiest Shiite site, witnesses said. The move came as sporadic explosions shook an adjacent cemetery that's been the scene of fierce fighting between the two sides.

Violence was relatively light Monday, but Police Chief Maj. Gen. Ghalib al-Jazairi said al-Sadr's militants broke into his family's house in the southern city of Basra and kidnapped his handpicked and ill 90-year-old father in an effort to cow him.

"They dragged him on the street in front of the local residents," Ghalib al-Jazairi said.

He said the gunmen were accompanied by the militia loyal to al-Sadr and the police told him he could only secure the release of his father, Hadi Kudhaiyer al-Jazairi, if he was willing to take his place. Al-Jazairi said he would not give in.

Also Monday, police said a Western journalist, Micah Garen and his Iraqi translator, Amir Doushi, were kidnapped as they walked through a crowded market in the southern city of Nasiriyah.

Witnesses said the men were abducted Friday by two men in ci-

vilian clothes and armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles, police Capt. Haidar Aboud said.

Adnan al-Shorafi, deputy governor of Dhi Qar province, said Garen had U.S. and French citizenship.

Fighting in Najaf killed two U.S. soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division on Sunday, the military reported Monday. A third soldier was killed Sunday in the volatile Anbar province, the center of the country's Sunni insurgency.

The U.S. military estimates hundreds of insurgents have been killed since clashes broke out in Najaf, but the militants dispute the figure. Eight Americans have been killed, the military said.

Al-Jazairi said 40 police have been killed since the start of the violence and accused militants of torturing, maiming and then burning the bodies of some. At least 19 policemen, including his nephew, were beheaded, he said.

Another officer was found Monday with his throat slit in his car in the city center, said Brig. Amer Hamza, the deputy police chief.

He blamed the militants for the killing.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi asked U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to intervene to help ease the crisis, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Monday.

"Americans once again made a grave blunder in calculating developments in Iraq and provoked the sentiments of the Iraqi people through resorting to the use of force," IRNA reported Kharrazi told Annan in a telephone conversation.

Saudi Arabia's Cabinet also called for "a greater role for the United Nations in efforts to stop the bloodshed," the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

The Vatican is willing to act as a mediator in attempts to end fighting in Najaf, a top Vatican official said Monday.



The skyline over Najaf's vast cemetery and the ancient Imam Ali mosque is seen from a position secured by the U.S. Army 1st Cavalry at a building near the area in the holy city of Najaf, Iraq. The National Conference in Baghdad sent a delegation of 60 negotiators Monday to help peace talks with cleric and militia leader Muqtada al-Sadr, who is fighting against U.S. and Iraqi forces.

Italian news reports Sunday quoted Aww al-Khafa, a representative of al-Sadr in the southern city of Nasiriyah, as saying that the city's provincial council had asked the Vatican to send an envoy to try to resolve the conflict in Najaf.

The fighting has cast a pall over the National Conference, an unprecedented gathering of 1,300 religious, tribal and political leaders meant to be a key first step toward democracy.

To resolve the crisis, the conference voted to send a delegation Tuesday from Baghdad to Najaf, 100 miles to the south, to demand al-Sadr's followers lay down their weapons and take up politics.

"The door is very open to all Iraqis, regardless of their religion, ethnic background, to join the free political process," Shiite cleric Hussein al-Sadr, a distant relative of al-Sadr's, told the conference.

Al-Sadr's supporters said they

welcomed the move. "We are ready to accept any mediation for a peaceful solution," al-Sadr aide Ahmed al-Shaibani said.

The continued Najaf fighting also has undermined the government in the eyes of Shiites, angered by the sight of U.S. troops firing around some of their holiest sites.

Fighting Sunday apparently caused minor damage to the outer wall of the shrine compound — where the militants are holed up — ripping off some tiles and leaving some holes. U.S. commanders have issued strict orders to keep the shrine out of the line of fire.

U.S. troops have taken the lead in the Najaf fighting, while Iraqi security forces have played a minor role, mainly by manning checkpoints. U.S. troops are training Iraqi national guard units for any possible raid on the shrine compound.

Also Monday, attackers in

Baghdad ambushed a U.S. tank in the Shiite stronghold of Sadr City, with either a rocket-propelled grenade or a roadside bomb, said Maj. Philip Smith, deputy spokesman for the 1st Cavalry Division.

"The tank was disabled, the crew has been recovered," Smith said. "Initial reports are that there were minor injuries."

Footage from Associated Press Television News showed the tank engulfed in flames.

Other incidents:

■ Two Lebanese truck drivers, Taha al-Jundi and Khaloud Othman, who were kidnapped two weeks ago were released. Othman's brother Waleed said Monday.

■ A roadside bomb in Baquba wounded three members of the Iraqi National Guard, said guardsmen Zuhair Abdul-Kareem, who was injured in the blast.

■ In Fallujah, west of Baghdad, U.S. warplanes bombed a house Monday but caused no damage or injuries, residents said.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 930 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 692 died as a result of hostile action and 238 died of nonhostile causes. The Department did not provide an update Saturday.

The British military has reported 63 deaths: Italy, 18; Spain, 11; Poland, seven; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 792 U.S. servicemen have died, 583 as a result of hostile action and 209 of nonhos-

tile causes, according to the Defense Department as of Friday.

The United Nations in efforts to stop the bloodshed," the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

■ A Marine and a U.S. soldier were killed in separate incidents Friday in Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Kane M. Funke, 20, Vancouver, Wash.; died Friday in an attack in Anbar province, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

■ Army Capt. Michael Yury Tarlinsky, 30, Passaic, N.J.; died Thursday in an attack in Najaf, assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group, Fort Campbell, Ky.

8 held in suspected attacks

WARSAW, Poland — Iraqi security forces working with Polish troops on Monday arrested eight people suspected of planning attacks on coalition troops in Iraq, a military spokesman said.

The eight were arrested, with no shots fired, during a search for illegal ammunition near the city of Karbala that ended at around 8 a.m., Polish Maj. Krzysztof Plazuk said by telephone from Iraq.

Iraqi police took the suspects, believed to be followers of radical Shiite leader Muqtada al-Sadr, into custody and opened an investigation. Their nationality was not immediately clear, Plazuk said.

Coalition forces found large amounts of ammunition, explosives and leaflets in the operation, he said.

Later Monday, a roadside bomb exploded near Karbala as a Polish convoy carrying supplies to the Camp Lima base in the city passed by, Plazuk said. Five Polish troops were hospitalized for observation, he added.

Poland sent troops to support last year's U.S.-led war to oust Saddam Hussein and

now commands a multinational force of some 6,200 troops — including 2,400 Poles — in south-central Iraq.

Iraq to crack down on rebels

ANKARA, Turkey — Iraq's interim president promised on Monday to prevent Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq from launching attacks into Turkey, apparently hoping to avoid a Turkish military response.

Kurdish rebels fighting for autonomy have stepped up attacks in Turkey, officials said, including bombings last week at two small hotels and at a liquefied petroleum gas plant in Istanbul that killed two people and wounded 11 others.

There are some 5,000 Turkish Kurdish rebels holed up in the mountains of Iraq, where many among Iraq's Kurds sympathize with their cause. Turkey repeatedly has urged U.S. and Iraqi authorities to crack down on the rebels, and on Monday, Iraq's interim President Ghazi al-Yawer assured Turkey's president that Baghdad would take action.

From The Associated Press

1st AD, 1st ID to relocate to States

Bush announces move that will affect up to 70,000 troops

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Army's two heavy divisions in Germany, the 1st Armored and 1st Infantry divisions, will relocate to the United States, but not for at least two to three years, Pentagon officials said Monday.

"From a very realistic standpoint, this would mean that families living overseas now — perhaps halfway through their tours — will more than likely not be affected by this move," said a Pentagon official who spoke on condition of anonymity. "They'll finish their tour and come 'home' before the wheels start moving on the process. Moving vans won't be pulling up next week."

The earliest that troops will be pulled from Germany will be 2006, after the process of realigning and closure of stateside bases is under way, said senior defense and state department officials who spoke Monday with reporters at the Pentagon on condition of anonymity.

Exactly when and where those divisions will move to depends on results of the independent commission studying Base Realignment and Closure, the official said. By May 2005, Defense Secretary Donald

Rumsfeld must submit to the commission a list of selected bases.

While BRAC does not affect overseas bases, it will be a factor in where the military will redeploy overseas forces. Between 1988 and 1995, four BRAC commissions proposed changes to 152 major installations and 235 smaller ones.

After a three-year study, Pentagon plans to move many as 70,000 U.S. troops over the next decade and about 100,000 family members and civilian employees, President Bush announced Monday while speaking at Veterans of Foreign War convention in Cincinnati.

"Over the coming decade we'll deploy a more agile and more flexible force, which means that more of our troops will be stationed and deployed from here at home," Bush said.

"We will move some of our troops and capabilities to new locations so they can surge quickly to deal with unexpected threats."

The repositioning of forces will have no impact on lengths of tour of troops now deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, officials said.

The Army's V Corps will stay in Germany, but will "be restructured to be more deployable and will have a number of combat

elements associated," said a senior defense official said.

A much lighter and rapidly deployable Stryker brigade will be stationed in Germany and "associated" with V Corps, he said, without providing further details.

The 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vicenza, Italy, is gaining a brigade, and two F-16 squadrons will remain each at Aviano Air Base in Italy and Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany, the official said.

Those not sent to stateside bases could move posts in Eastern Europe, though most likely for shorter deployment and likely without families, officials said. But, "we're not looking to take forces... in Europe today and station them in the East," a defense official said.

The repositioning of troops is not intended to eventually lead to a draw down in end strength.

It's a move long overdue, said Ted Galen Carpenter, vice president for Defense and Foreign Policy Studies at the Cato Institute, a conservative libertarian think tank.

"It is absurd that the United States has continued to station 100,000 troops in Europe," he continued.

"Since the demise of the Soviet Union, there is no serious security threat on the continent."

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President Bush addresses the Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention on Monday in Cincinnati. Bush announced plans to shift 60,000 to 70,000 U.S. troops who are stationed in Europe and Asia.

Bush proposal gets guarded response from troops in Europe

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

President Bush's proposal Monday to significantly reduce the number of troops based overseas met with guarded and mixed responses in Europe.

U.S. military officials in Europe largely deferred to the U.S. European Command, which released a statement as the president was preparing to speak at a Veterans of Foreign Wars convention in Cincinnati. Bush wants to redeploy tens of thousands of troops back to the United States as part of a global realignment of forces.

"Our efforts will support NATO's own transformation," the EUCOM statement read. "We aim to eliminate Cold War legacy structures that are no longer relevant to today's security needs. Our future posture will contain forward forces that are rapidly deployable for early entry into conflict regions in Europe, Africa and beyond."

The president wants to redeploy up to

70,000 servicemembers from Europe and Pacific to bases in the United States over the next decade. The majority of the troops pulled would come from the European theater.

Such a move, which has been bandied about for years, would have far-reaching effects for everybody affiliated with the U.S. military, from servicemembers and their families to dozens of local communities.

"We want the American soldiers to remain in Gießen," said mayoral spokesman Christoph Zörb. "The soldiers are very, very welcome."

Given the announcement by Bush came at the end of the workday in Europe, some German and American authorities expect the better part of the day anxiously waiting to hear what the commander in chief had to say.

The EUCOM statement expounded on several key elements of the president's announcement, including:

■ Ground, air, and naval headquarters will be streamlined and consolidated.

■ Special Forces, both forward-stationed and rotational, will increase in importance; they will be positioned for ease of movement both within and outside of Europe.

■ Rotational air, ground and sea forces will provide presence without permanence, assuring U.S. allies and partners while accounting for regional sensitivities.

■ Forward Operating Sites and Cooperative Security Locations, particularly in new NATO member states, will provide greater operational flexibility and opportunities for advanced bilateral and NATO-wide training.

■ It is important to understand that the president's transformation plan will take several years to implement.

European Command officials have said no money has yet been earmarked for the expensive job of mothballing bases and

shipping troops and gear home. Privately, some local military officials say there has been no sign of planning for a future anywhere except Germany, where the majority of troops in Europe are based.

"We're continuing to provide base operations for soldiers and families within our footprint," said Don Klinger, spokesman for the Würzburg-based 98th Area Support Group, which includes the communities of Bamberg, Schweinfurt, Kitzingen, Gießstadt, Ilseheim and Ansbach.

Most troops in the area are in Iraq, halfway through a difficult deployment that already has claimed the lives of nearly 45 Germany-based troops from 1st Infantry Division or its support units.

Said Army Spc. Rebecca Sharpton, a 1st ID spokeswoman in Würzburg: "Our biggest push is getting people home safely to Germany."

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Reporters Charlie Coon and Steve Liewer contributed to this report.

Rumsfeld briefs Russians on defense plan

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld updated his Russian counterpart over the weekend on U.S. plans to shift its forces stationed around the globe, in some cases potentially bringing them closer to Russia's borders.

Rumsfeld and Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov met over a two-day period in St. Petersburg on a variety of security issues, including the U.S. plans to reorient its forces away from the Cold War alignment and toward one aimed at fighting the war on Islamic terrorist groups.

Rumsfeld said in the coming years, forces will be leaving Germany during the worldwide shift. Some military units will return to the United States, while the United States is expected to sign access agreements with new allies in Asia and elsewhere. Some new bases may have only a small regular American presence, but can be expanded rapidly in a crisis.

But any plans are far from final, Rumsfeld told reporters while flying home from Russia on Sunday. While there is no chance American troops would be based on Russian soil, Rumsfeld said "they have an interest" in the matter, presumably because some of the countries the United States is

negotiating with are former Soviet republics and Warsaw Pact states.

"The Russians feel more and more that we are in their backyard. We feel like, well, we need to be there," said Eugene Rumer, an expert on the former Soviet Union at the National Defense University.

Often the United States and Russia don't agree, but no one issue appears to dominate the relationship. Thus far, the Bush and Putin administrations have been content to snipe at one another on specific matters, but, as a whole, they remain cordial.

"The relationship is a good one. It's one that has been evolving," Rumsfeld said.



U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, left, met with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov in St. Petersburg on Saturday.

AAFES not after 'Fahrenheit 9/11'

Spokesman cites DVD release date as reason to skip theater showings

BY PATRICK DICKSON

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — AAFES said Monday it will not be pursuing prints of Michael Moore's controversial film, "Fahrenheit 9/11" after all, saying the movie's Oct. 5 DVD release doesn't give it enough time to draw sufficient audiences.

Army and Air Force Exchange Service spokesman Judd Anstey said the decision to not procure the film was purely a business decision, and has nothing to do with its contentious political nature.

The film is a strong attack on President Bush and his policies after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, including the war in Iraq.

Anstey said that AAFES' mission is to generate revenue to be put back into Morale, Welfare, and Recreation programs, and therefore it has decided to not to run the film in overseas theaters.

A spokesman for the Fellowship Adventure Group, a company started by Miramax co-chairman Harvey and Bob Weinstein, said it told AAFES "on or about" July 21 that 200 to 300 prints of "Fahrenheit 9/11" would be available to AAFES on Monday.

The group "did everything we were supposed to do" the spokesman said, including offering trail-

ers and the printed media promotional material on July 22. "From that point on, they were unresponsive."

The Fellowship Adventure Group was formed to distribute Moore's film in conjunction with Lions Gate Films and IFC Films after Disney, which owns Miramax, blocked Miramax's efforts to distribute it.

But AAFES had already booked what would be shown in its theaters up to Sept. 3, Anstey said. That gave AAFES a window of 35 days until the DVD release.

AAFES has run films with a shorter window, notably "Bend It Like Beckham," which had a four-day window and from which AAFES earned \$2,650, and "Win a Date with Tad Hamilton," which it ran with a 32-day window and which earned \$13,291, according to Anstey.

"Bend It Like Beckham" demonstrates the business case why AAFES tries not to book films within 35 days of the film's home video release date," said John Walters, chief of motion picture services for AAFES. "Bend It Like Beckham" drew minimum attendance."

"Fahrenheit 9/11" has grossed \$113.3 million at the U.S. box office so far.

E-mail Pat Dickson at: dicksonp@stripes.osd.mil



PHOTOS BY MARNI MCENTEE/Stars and Stripes

Members of the 52nd Security Forces Squadron of Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, load gear onto a truck Monday as they get ready to deploy for at least six months to the Middle East as part of the next Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotation.

Spangdahlem hosts sendoff

BY MARNI MCENTEE

Stars and Stripes

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany — Sixty members of Spangdahlem's 52nd Security Forces Squadron said quiet goodbyes to families and friends Monday, before deploying to the Middle East for six months.

As the airmen waited for a bus

60 airmen deployed to Middle East

to arrive at the base deployment center, they huddled with wives, husbands and children in a hushed atmosphere that a chaplain said was inspired by the uncertainty of what was to come.

"A lot of them aren't real talkative right now," Chaplain (Maj.) Dennis Sancier said. "There's a feeling about it — a presence that speaks louder than words."

Airman 1st Class Sean Davis, 21, is making his first tour down-range.

"We've got a job to do so we might as well do it," Davis, of Dayton, Ohio, said quietly. "Right now, it's time to get serious. We're going down there and we don't know what it entails."

The airmen are among the first of 1,000 Spangdahlem troops who will leave between now and September as part of the Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotations. They will go to 21 locations around the world. Among them will be the highly deployed 606th Air Control Squadron and the 81st Fighter Squadron, which flies A-10 Thunderbolt IIs.

"This is only the beginning," said Col. Tom Groznik, vice commander of the 52nd Fighter Wing, who showed up to see off the troops.

This is the first time most airmen are going on four-month tours — up a month from prior AEF rotations. Senior leaders added a month to the rotations to give combatant commanders, particularly in the Middle East and Afghanistan, greater flexibility to operate.

That means they'll be deployed through Christmas and likely New Year's. Security forces and other troops in hard-to-fill billets regularly deploy for longer periods.

Staff Sgt. Sterling Fernandez held his 4-month-old son, Brandon, kissing and hugging the

child. His wife, Rebecca, is also on active duty, but she is staying home. She is pregnant with their second child. It's the first time the couple has separated because of a deployment.

"Mentally, it's hard," Fernandez, 28, of Sunset Beach, Hawaii, said. "It'll never be easy."

Shortly before boarding a bus to Rhein-Main Air Base, the airmen were called into formation one last time.

"I just ask you one big favor: Come back," said Senior Master Sgt. James Erwin, security forces manager for the squadron.

E-mail Marni McEntee at: mcentee@mail.stripes.osd.mil



Kathern Javier, holding baby Annabella, and her children Levi, 9, and Joseph, 7, wave goodbye to husband and father Staff Sgt. Lorenzo Javier.

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Artillery troops polish skills in the sand

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

UDAIRI RANGE, Kuwait — The 2nd Infantry Division field artillery soldiers took another step toward becoming infantrymen by practicing urban combat skills at Udairi Range last week.

Because three batteries from 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment will take turns working as infantry companies during a yearlong deployment to Iraq, they've worked months to prepare as part of 2nd ID's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, the Strike Force.

The 2-17 soldiers spent two months training in South Korea for their new roles before heading to the Middle East last week. Now they are adapting their new skills to the desert environment at Udairi Range.

Capt. John Marley, commander of 2-17's Battery A, spent three days last week training his unit at Udairi's Military Operations Urban Terrain site.

The site includes a series of ranges where soldiers start out rehearsing room-clearing techniques and move on to a live-fire shoot-house — a small plywood village built in the desert surrounded by tall sand berms to keep bullets from flying too far.

"We did this in some abandoned barracks at Camp Hovey (in South Korea) and at the Korean Training Center, but this will be the first live fire with this type of training," Marley said.

The artillerymen appear to relish the infantry work in the desert, he said.

"It is a different type of training for them, and they are just eating it up," he said.

Life on the range is tough. The 2-17 soldiers have worked hard to survive the heat and sandstorms, minimizing the pain by sleeping in air-conditioned tents during the hottest part of the day, Marley said.

On Saturday morning, soldiers from 2-17's Battery C rehearsed urban combat moves in "rooms" marked by sandbags laid on the ground. A former Special Forces instructor kept watch.



Soldiers from Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment practice clearing buildings at Udairi Range, Kuwait, with the help of a former Special Forces instructor.

"The women and children are going to be screaming. Everybody will be scared to death," the instructor told the soldiers.

"As the team leader, the decisions you make may or may not cost them their lives," he told one team leader.

"What's wrong with this guy's muzzle? It is poking through the door. Elbows down when you come through — give them a small target," the instructor said as the soldiers repeatedly entered and exited a "room."

For Pfc. Stephen Sherwood of Battery A, the live-fire portion of the training was the highlight of his time on the range.

"We had to cease fire three times because there were camels all over the range," he said.

Pvt. Michael Lopez, also of Battery A, believes he saw sheep being herded across the range by Bedouins.

"They were huge, the biggest sheep I have ever seen," he said.



Soldiers from Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment take a break from training at Udairi Range.

"Maybe they were goats," suggested Sherwood.

One of the hardest missions,

said the soldiers, was attempting to free the bus that brought them to the range after it got stuck in a



A soldier from Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment storms a "room" at Udairi Range on Saturday.

sand dune.

"We had to push it for two hours. There were about 20 guys pushing and we only pushed it 300 yards," Lopez said.

"It wasn't a very fun way to start the day," added Sherwood, taking a bite of beef ravioli from his Meals, Ready to Eat.

The bus was still stuck in the sand near where the soldiers ate.

A few miles down the road at another range, a group of 2-17 soldiers practiced reaction shooting.

Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy Samuel, platoon sergeant with Battery A, 2nd Platoon, inspected targets shot by his drivers.

"When someone is a good shot that whole black silhouette part is torn out," Samuel said, gazing at a mutilated paper target.

"My drivers have to shoot good. In case I get hurt they have got to be able to kill the enemy," he said. The Special Forces instructors impressed Samuel.

"You can tell they are Special Forces because of the way they walk," he said. "They have a swagger. They are almost as cocky as field artillerymen."

E-mail Seth Robson at: robson@spjstripes.osd.mil

Some reservists return to find lost jobs, benefits

By LARRY MARGASAK

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Benefits reduced. Promotions forgotten. Jobs gone.

It's tough to face the conditions when the men and women returning home from the mean streets of Iraq, ready to resume your civilian career.

Increasing numbers of National Guard and Reserve troops returning home are experiencing just such disappointment. Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the Labor Department reports receiving greater numbers of complaints under a 1994 law that is primarily



Gill

Labor Dept. troubled by rate of complaints

designed to give Guard and Reserve troops their old jobs back, or provide them with equivalent positions.

Benefits and raises must be protected, as if the servicemember had never left. Labor Department officials said only a nationwide campaign to educate employers about the law prevented the problem from getting even worse.

"Any increase in the number of complaints is a concern to us," said Fred June Jr., assistant secretary of labor for veterans employment and training. "At the same time, we're pleased by the fact that the increase in complaints is not at the level that would have been expected."

Some soldiers, however, are finding the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act can't protect them.

Larry Gill couldn't return as a police officer in Thomaston, Ala., because a grenade injured a foot, making it impossible for him to take criminals or duck bullets.

Jerry Chambers of Oberlin, Kan., discovered that budget cuts eliminated his job as a substance abuse prevention consultant.

Ron Vander Wal of Pollock, S.D., was originally told his job as a customer service representative was eliminated. He was rehired after filing a civil lawsuit seeking damages.

Labor Secretary Elaine Chao said the department is drafting rules to spell out the law's protections for service personnel because "we've got to do everything we can to protect their re-employment rights."

Labor was receiving about 900 formal complaints a year before the Sept. 11 at-

tacks. The statistical picture since then, based on fiscal years ending Sept. 30:

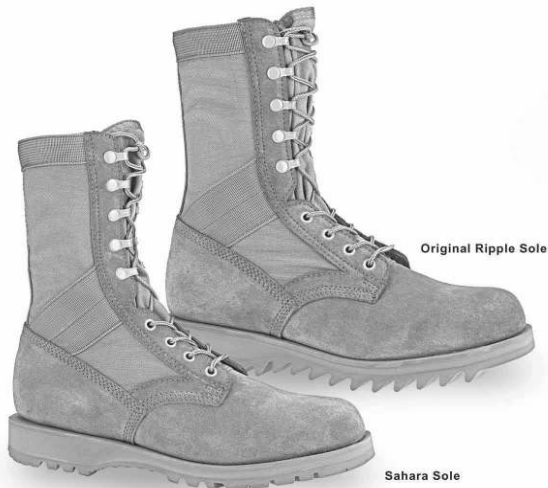
- 1,218 cases opened in 2002.
- 1,327 cases in 2003.
- 1,200 cases from Oct. 1, 2003, through July 31. If projected over 12 months, the figure would be 1,440, the department said.

Soldiers' complaints were upheld or settled by the department in one-third of last year's cases, while another third were found to have no merit. The remaining cases are inactive or closed, often because the government lost contact with the servicemember or the servicemember returned to active duty.

When Guard and Reserve troops returned from the first Gulf War, there was one complaint for every 54 servicemen leaving active duty.

SEE RESERVISTS ON PAGE 9

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3 American suspects deny torture allegations

Accused of harming Afghan citizens, men permitted to use documents from FBI for defense

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three Americans on trial for allegedly arresting and torturing Afghans won a week to stiffen their defense Monday, after the FBI turned over documents and pictures from their freelance hunt for terrorists.

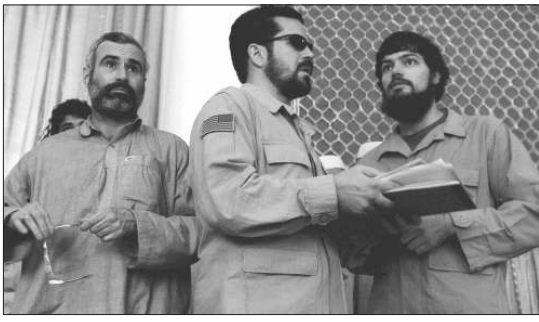
The group's leader denied any of the men they detained were abused and insisted the extra evidence would show they had support from U.S. security agencies — something American authorities deny.

"Even if we were not in the U.S. Army, we were working with the U.S. Army, the FBI and the CIA," Jonathan Idema told Kabul's Primary Court of National Security. "They knew everything we were doing, every single day."

An Afghan co-defendant in the trial also testified that the two had contact with top Afghan officials, including the defense minister.

Idema, Brett Bennett and Edward Caraballo were arrested when Afghan security forces raided their makeshift jail in a house in central Kabul on July 5.

The American military, facing its own allegations of prisoner abuse in Iraq and Afghanistan, insists the men were freelancers operating outside the law and without their knowledge. Still, it has



American citizens, from left, Edward Caraballo, Jonathan Idema and Brett Bennett stand at a court hearing Monday in Kabul, Afghanistan. Accused of running a private jail in Afghanistan, the three suspects denied charges that they tortured eight prisoners.

admitted receiving a prisoner from Idema who was subsequently released.

The charges the three men face also include illegal entry and hostage-taking and could see them sentenced to 15-20 years in Afghanistan's own rudimentary prisons.

Four Afghans have been charged as accessories.

Idema, a former U.S. soldier reportedly age 48, said Afghan intelligence agents had confiscated 200 videotapes, 500 pages of documents and more than 800 photos and given them to U.S. authorities.

The materials allegedly showed prisoners being interrogated and proved the defendants met and telephoned with the American military and law enforcers.

Idema, who was conducting his own defense, complained that he

had received no written translation of the indictment or the laws under which he is charged — irritating the presiding judge.

"You just want to waste time," Judge Abdul Baset Bakhtiyari said. "You understand perfectly."

A lawyer for Caraballo, a 35-year-old from New York, said American officials told him only the night before that the confiscated material had been returned to the Afghan intelligence service.

"The FBI knew when the trial was," attorney Michael Skibbie said. "It shows incredible disrespect for the Afghan justice system."

The judge adjourned the case for a week to give the defense time to examine the material.

U.S. Embassy staff at the trial declined to comment on the FBI's role.

Afghan and American officials have left open whether the trio could face more charges before American courts.

An Afghan lawyer for Caraballo said her client was a journalist making a film about terrorism and hadn't participated in any of the alleged abuse of prisoners.

Idema, from Fayetteville, N.C., claimed the defendants arrested "world-class" terrorists and had uncovered a plot to kill U.S. troops and Afghan leaders.

Bennett, 28, also reportedly of Fayetteville, yet to speak in court. Prosecutors have said he too appeared to be a journalist.

U.S. forces staying out of Afghanistan's drug war for now

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — There are no immediate plans for U.S. military forces to launch counter-narcotics operations to try to stem the growing tide of opium production in Afghanistan, according to the top field commander in the country.

"At this point in time, U.S. troops will not be involved in counterdrug or counter-narcotics operations at all," said Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, the commander of Combined Joint Task Force 76, during a new conference Friday in Kandahar.

Olson's assertion comes on the heels of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's announcement last week that countering the drug problem in Afghanistan will now become U.S. priority.

"The danger a large drug trade poses in this country is too serious to ignore," Rumsfeld said, according to transcripts of the press conference in Kabul on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters en route to Afghanistan, Rumsfeld said, "plans are being fashioned now" to address the problem but skirted the issue of whether U.S. troops would be involved.

"I don't want to get into those troops could do what," Rumsfeld stated in the transcript. "We've got a lot we're doing with respect to the terrorist network. It requires an overall master plan and that is what's being developed."

Vast poppy fields cultivated in nearly all of Afghanistan's provinces account for 90 percent of the heroin sold in Europe, according to the United Nations.

"In many provinces there also are opium markets, under effective protection of regional strongmen, where opium is traded freely to the highest bidder and is subject to taxation by those strongmen," according to a March State Department report. "An increasingly large portion of Af-

ghanistan's raw opium crop is processed into heroin and morphine base by drug labs inside Afghanistan, reducing its bulk by a factor of 10 to 1, and thereby facilitating its movement to markets in Europe and Asia," according to the report.

Exactly how officials hope to tackle the problem remains to be seen, but Olson said going directly after poppy production was unlikely.

"He did say that the drug issue is a priority," Olson said of Rumsfeld's marching orders. "But poppy eradication may not be the best way to do that."

There may be better ways to interdict the drug business in Afghanistan.

With poppy fields offering Afghanistan's impoverished farmers their only real cash crop, Olson said alternatives must be found.

"Right now the drug trade, sadly, has become the livelihood of some of the Afghan population. Part of the elimination of that

particular evil," said Olson. "Must be providing some replacement. ... There has to be the situation that will allow Afghans to make a decent living."

The governor of Afghanistan's Kandahar province, speaking alongside Olson, insisted drug money was fueling Taliban and al-Qaida networks.

"I believe one of the most important factors in prolonging the life of terrorism, not only in Afghanistan, but in the region and internationally, is the drug issue," said Yousaf Peshawar. "It is very closely related. We are 100 percent sure that some of the top terrorists are directly involved in drug trade. This is becoming more and more the bloodline for terrorists."

Peshawar called for international assistance in helping stem that flow.

"The sooner the better. The later we move on it, the more price we will have to pay."

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Tensions still high between warring Afghan factions

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Tensions remained high Monday in western Afghanistan despite the deployment of national army forces in the region to restore order following clashes between rival warlords, officials said.

Chief of police of Badkhis province, Amir Shah Nalbaidza, reported a clash near the provincial capital Qala-e-Naw late Sunday, but said there were no casualties.

He accused a unit of forces based in Badkhis yet loyal to the governor of neighboring Herat province, Is-

mail Khan, of taking a hilltop position over the city and firing on troops under his command.

A spokesman for Khan — the most powerful warlord in western Afghanistan — denied his involvement and said no forces had been sent from Herat to Badkhis.

At the weekend, more than 20 people were killed in fighting that broke out in different regions of Herat between forces of Khan and rival warlords — the latest reminder of the instability that troubles much of Afghanistan as the country gears up

for its first post-Taliban national elections in October.

The government of U.S.-backed President Hamid Karzai quickly deployed troops from the fledgling national army to restore order.

The U.S. military said Monday that 440 Afghan National Army soldiers, accompanied by 29 U.S. military advisers, traveled on 10 C-130 transport planes to Shindand, 370 miles west of the capital, Kabul, where forces of Amanullah, a rival of Khan's, had taken over a contested air base.

Terror suspect held meetings in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — An alleged senior al-Qaida operative who was captured in Britain during anti-terror raids earlier this month secretly visited a remote Pakistani tribal region near Afghanistan in March, an army spokesman and intelligence sources said Monday.

Abu Eisa al-Hindi met with terror suspects in the South Waziristan region, a hide-out and training base for al-Qaida which has been targeted in several Pakistani military operations in recent months, said an intelligence official on condition of anonymity.

Pakistan army spokesman Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan confirmed that al-Hindi had paid a "secret" visit to the region in March before "discreetly going back to London."

He said Pakistan got the information from Mohammed Naem Nor Khan, an alleged al-Qaida operative who was captured by Pakistani intelligence agents on July 13.

From The Associated Press

Reservists: For some, getting back to old life isn't an option

RESERVISTS, FROM PAGE 6

Currently, with the government's aggressive drive to inform employers of the law, the figure has improved to 1 in 69.

The complaints represent a small percentage of the quarter-million Guard and Reserve troops who left active duty since the Sept. 11 attacks.

Not all returning troops are bitter about their job loss. Chambers, the substance abuse consultant, agreed that budget cuts left his former nonprofit employer no choice but to eliminate his job.

"I don't fault them for that and I don't hold grudges," said Chambers. He was among the lucky ones, finding employment with his Reserve unit, the 1013th Quartermaster Company, based in North Platte and McCook, Neb. His unit has been mobilized anew, and he is again on active duty.

For others, finding their jobs gone was an emotional and an economic hardship.

Gill, the former Alabama police officer with an injured leg, had to give up a career that began in 1992 and followed in the footsteps of his father and brother. "My biggest concern is loss of income," he said.

While some troops fault former employers for firing them as they served their country, most complaints involved alleged denial of benefits, promotions and raises, said officials from Labor and a Pentagon organization — Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Army Col. Brarry Cox, who coordinates the ES-GR's mediation efforts between employers and re-



Larry Gill, right, poses with his son, Ryan, 3, outside their home in Semmes, Ala., last May. Gill's job as a police officer was waiting for him when he returned from Army National Guard duty in Iraq, but he came back on a stretcher and couldn't resume his duties.

turning troops, said typical issues raised by soldiers include: "What about the 401(k)? The end-of-year bonus? What about my evaluation? I was due a merit promotion that I missed."

"We try to talk employers through a logical approach; How were they (the employees) performing prior to active duty, where do you think they would have come out?"

Army numbers defy re-enlisting rumors

Service close to target retention despite war

BY CHRIS VAUGHN
Knight Ridder Newspapers

FORT HOOD, Texas — Spc. Brian Harris made a cold calculation about his future in fatigues.

Then he signed the papers, raised his right hand and repeated the re-enlistment oath given by his platoon leader. He shook hands with the men from the 588th Engineer Battalion, posed for a picture and went back to work.

An Iraq war veteran, Harris weighed the probability of another long deployment before his initial enlistment would expire. He decided the best option was to re-up with a guarantee that he could move to Fort Lewis, Wash., near his hometown.

The Army is defying the conventional wisdom that the Iraq war will empty its ranks, and it appears to be on track to meet its retention goals for early, midcareer and career-enlisted soldiers.

As of late July, the Army had re-enlisted 45,256 soldiers of the 56,100 it needs to meet its target this fiscal year, which ends in September. Short of an awful last two months, Army officials say they'll make their goal.

In a year of long deployments to Iraq, the scandal at Abu Ghraib prison and a decidedly bloody spring in which 278 servicemembers died, retaining so many battle-tested corporals and sergeants is no small feat.

"In a way we're plagued by anecdotes where one soldier in a thousand is interviewed and complains that he can't wait to get out of the Army, so that means everybody must want out of the Army," said Lt. Col. Bryan Hiltfery, an Army spokesman at the Pentagon. "That becomes the truth, but it isn't. We don't have any problem with retention."

The reasons, Army career counselors say, are many: an unsettling civilian economy, large bonuses, improved pay and combat itself.

As one soldier put it, a firefighter who never got to fight fires would be unlikely to keep riding the truck.

This year's re-enlistments are evidence that the exodus isn't overwhelming among the enlisted or the young officers.

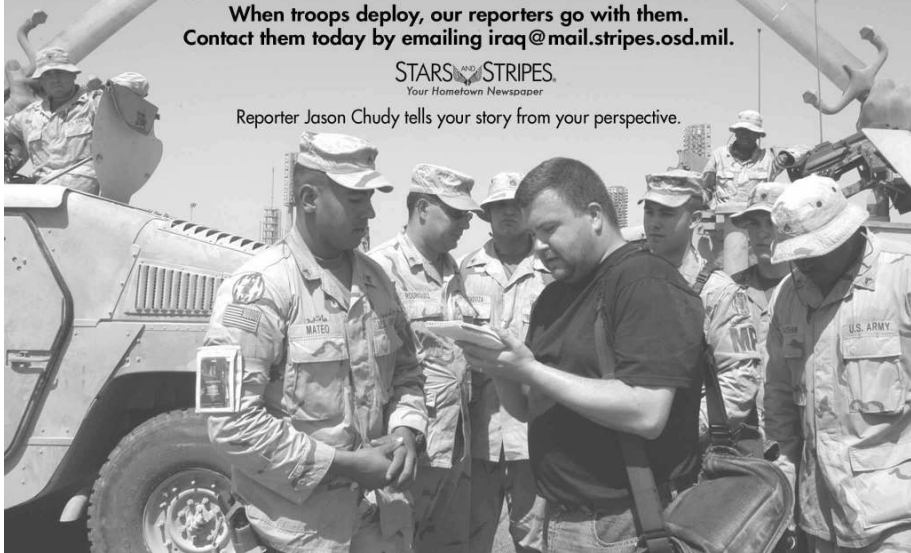
Hiltfery said the Army is losing 5.5 percent of its lieutenants and captains a year, significantly fewer than four years ago.

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IN THE WORLD



An opposition member against Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez cries Monday as Chavez appears on TV. Chavez appeared to have survived a referendum to oust him, according to early results in Caracas, Venezuela.

Recall fails to oust Chavez

Results back Venezuelan president's victory claims

BY ANDREW SELSKY

The Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — President Hugo Chavez survived a referendum to oust him, according to results Monday, prompting his backers to set off fireworks and celebrate in the capital, while Venezuela's opposition swiftly claimed fraud.

The first-ever recall vote for a president in Venezuela's history

was aimed at putting a lid on years of violent political unrest and a bloody coup, and it came after a lengthy and complicated petitioning process.

With 94 percent of the votes counted, Chavez had 58 percent of the vote and the opposition 42 percent, according to Francisco Carrasquero, president of the National Elections Council. But Carrasquero stopped short of declaring Chavez the outright winner.

Chavez, the champion of Venezuela's majority poor and the nemesis of the wealthier classes, claimed victory and said he would continue to wage his "revolution for the poor."

"Venezuela has changed forever," he said in a speech. "There is no turning back."

He also claimed repeatedly that opposition leaders were pawns of President Bush.

"Hopefully, from this day on

Washington will respect the government and people of Venezuela," Chavez boomed from a palace balcony.

Carrasquero said 4,991,483 votes were cast against recalling the former army paratrooper, and 3,576,517 in favor.

Opposition leaders refused to accept the results and demanded a manual recount, claiming their own exit polls showed almost 60 percent of citizens voted to oust Chavez.

The referendum comes after a two-year drive to oust Chavez that included a short-lived 2002 coup, a devastating two-month strike and political riots in March that claimed a dozen lives.

Venezuelans could either vote "yes" to recall Chavez or "no" to allow him to serve out the remainder of a six-year term that began in 2000.

Former President Carter, who monitored the vote, said it was the largest turnout he had ever seen, and lines extended for more than a mile in some places.

Christopher Toothaker and Alexandra Olson of The Associated Press contributed to this report in Caracas.

Muslim guide urges vigilance in event of terror, backlash

The Associated Press

LONDON — Islamic leaders in Britain have drafted a booklet advising Muslims of their legal rights, urging vigilance against terrorists and warning of a possible Islamophobic backlash if there is an attack. The pamphlet, titled "Know Your Rights and Responsibilities," warns Muslims whose faith is easily identified, such as women who wear the hijab, to take care when going out alone.

The Muslim Council of Britain, which prepared the pocket-size guide, also calls for anyone who suspects terrorist activity to report it to police.

"We know that after Sept. 11 we saw a number of attacks against mosques and cemeteries," said council spokesman Imtiaz Bunglawala.

"If there were an attack in the U.K., it is plausible that some

groups may seek to foment hatred and attacks against the Muslim community. We urge Muslims to remain calm and not to be provoked at all."

Bunglawala said the guide encouraged Muslims to be vigilant and report suspicious activity to the police, in the hope of preventing a terrorist attack.

"British Muslim groups have their role to play in safeguarding the security of this country," he added.

The council — an umbrella organization to which more than 350 Muslim organizations are affiliated — is printing 500,000 copies of the guide, which it intends to send to many of Britain's estimated 1.8 million Muslims next month.

It also encourages parents to take a greater interest in their children's education and encourages participation in mainstream political parties.

German nurse admits killing elderly patients

The Associated Press

BERLIN — A nurse who last month admitted giving lethal injections to 10 elderly patients at a German hospital has confessed to another two killings, prosecutors said Monday.

The 25-year-old woman, whose name has not been released, said he killed the two — a woman in her seventies and a man in his eighties — last summer, prosecutors in the southern town of Kempen said in a statement.

When he was arrested in July, he acknowledged killing 10 patients, ages 60 to 89. Police said he told them he could not bear to see the patients "wasting away."

The deaths, at a hospital in the Bavarian town of Sonthofen, took

place between March 2003 and July 2004. Prosecutors say they are investigating the deaths of another 68 patients at times when the nurse was on duty.

Although there is no evidence yet that he was responsible, prosecutors said they could not rule out his involvement because a large quantity of drugs went missing from the hospital pharmacy.

Police tracked down the nurse as she investigated the disappearing drugs and compared the times when patients died with the hours he worked. Investigators found unsealed vials of medicine at his apartment.

He is under investigation for possible charges of manslaughter in 11 cases and mercy killing in a twelfth.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
British pound	\$1.2696
Japanese yen (Aug. 18)	86.80
S. Korean won (Aug. 17)	1,126.00

Commercial rates	
Bahraini (Dinar)	0.3778
British pound	\$1.2696
Canada (Dollar)	0.7114
Denmark (Krone)	6.0278
Egypt (Pound)	0.2261
Euro	0.7134
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.7891
Indonesian (Rupiah)	200.52
Lebanese (Lira)	79.452
Israeli (Shekel)	4.5475
Japan (Yen)	110.71
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2947
Norway (Krone)	0.7128
New Zealand (Dollar)	0.6789
Philippines (Peso)	56.70
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	2.4760
Singapore (Dollar)	1.7155
S. Korea (Won)	1,126.00
Switzerland (Franc)	1.425
Taiwan (Dollar)	1.425
Turkey (Lira)	1,470.5800

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Résumé makeovers

Chicago Tribune

Job applicants don't realize that a bad résumé could be what's stopping them from getting a job interview, said Kathleen Canfield, director of Harper College's career center in Palatine, Ill. Canfield offers job-seekers tips for revamping their résumés.

Excise vague statements from your stated objective. "You need to start with an objective that is focused," she said. "In today's job market, you have to be specific. It should be clear and to the point and match the job description."

Don't just state where you worked and when. Also include "what you have done at a company and relevant accomplishments that apply to the job you want." For example, if you're a sales representative applying for a job in education, don't emphasize your sales experience. Instead, redo your work history to "stress interpersonal skills and customer relations, because they're transferable to education."

Make sure the format is easy to read and that it's free of spelling errors.

Israelis may counter inmates' hunger strike with barbecues

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli prison officials are considering using house barbecues to entice hungry detainees of Palestinian prisoners to break a hunger strike launched this week to protest conditions, a spokesman said Monday.

About 1,600 prisoners began the strike on Sunday, demanding the right to family visits and greater communication with the outside world. Organizers said the rest of the 7,500 Palestinian detainees being held by Israel will join the protest by the end of the week.

Israeli officials countered by imposing new sanctions on the prisoners. As the protest continued into its second day Monday,

prisons spokesman Ofer Lefter said authorities were considering grilling meats near the prisoners, hoping the enticing aroma would weaken their resolve.

"We look at psychological means to deal with problems like this," Lefter said, saying the tactic has been used in other parts of the world. "Our interest is to return prisoners to eating as soon as possible." He said no decision had been made on whether to begin the threatened cookouts.

Abu Mohammed, a spokesman for the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, said his group planned to begin the hunger strike in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. Palestinian militants have made similar threats in the past.

IN THE STATES

Hacking seen in court

SALT LAKE CITY — Mark Hacking, charged with killing his wife after she confronted him over deceptions about his education, appeared briefly in a heavily guarded courtroom Monday, guarded by armed deputies and looking puzzled.

Hacking, 28, said nothing as a judge scheduled a preliminary hearing for Sept. 23.

Hacking's first in-person court appearance came after police spent their 12th night searching a county landfill without finding Lori Hacking's body or a 22-caliber firearm they believe was the murder weapon.

Athlete jumps to death

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Police said Monday they believe a former Olympic athlete killed his neurosurgeon wife before jumping to his death from a 10th-story dormitory window.

Investigators identified the man as Robert Howard, a University of Arkansas medical student who competed in track and field in the 1996 and 2000 Olympics but did not make the U.S. team this year, said University of Arkansas medical school police Capt. Bryan Patterson.

Investigators went to a private residence and found the student's wife, Dr. Robin Mitchell, stabbed to death. Mitchell was chief resident in neurosurgery at the medical school.

Blood clot device OK'd

WASHINGTON — The first device to remove blood clots from the brains of people suffering strokes — a new treatment option that could save lives and shave the \$53 billion annual bill to treat strokes — has been approved by the government.

In 80 percent of strokes, a blood vessel in the brain becomes clogged by a blood clot, increasing the chance of severe disability or death.

The Merci Retriever, a tiny corkscrew threaded through an artery to remove the clot and restore blood flow, is produced by Mountain View, Calif.-based Concentric Medical.

From wire reports

Thousands in shelters in Charley's wake

Florida survivors waiting for water and gas

BY VICKIE CHACHERE

The Associated Press

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. — Urban rescue teams, insurance adjusters and National Guard troops scattered across Florida Monday to help victims of Hurricane Charley and deliver water and other supplies to thousands of people left homeless.

Tami Wilson, 45, of Port Charlotte, wiped a tear from her eye after picking up ice and water from National Guardsmen at a "comfort station" in North Point. She and her husband, Dewaine, hadn't had a shower or a hot meal since the storm hit.

"The hard part is not being able to bathe and not having food and water unless I go out and look for it. Last night, we almost gave up because it got so hot," she said.

Florida had at least 17 storm-related deaths, said the chief of the state Department of Law Enforcement, Guy Tunnell. He said the 17th death occurred in a car accident Monday but he didn't have details on how it was related to the storm. Earlier, Charley killed four people in Cuba and one in Jamaica.

Authorities estimate it caused as much as \$11 billion in damage to insured homes in Florida alone.

Nearly 1 million people remained without power, and officials said it could take weeks to get service fully restored. Some 2,300 people were in emergency shelters, and Federal Emergency Management Agency director Michael Brown said 11,000 have already applied for disaster aid.

Brown said it could take several weeks to find all the victims, and officials still had no count Monday of how many people remained unaccounted for. The search was slow in some areas because downed power lines and debris were making it dangerous.

But officials said early estimates of hundreds of people missing could be inflated by erroneous reports from worried relatives and friends.

"The fact that we have not found any more dead than we have is nothing short of a miracle," Tunnell said.

Punta Gorda, a retirement community of about 15,000 people, and Port Charlotte in Charlotte county appeared to be among the hardest-hit areas. About 70,000 homes and businesses were without power in Charlotte County, where temperatures were in the low 90s Monday and forecasters warned of possible rain.

A few miles north of Punta Gorda in Bowling Green, several dozen people waited in a long line for food and supplies being distributed by the Salvation Army.

"We just want the basic things," said Sherrie Chester, who was waiting with her 17-year-old daughter for food, water and toilet paper.

After slamming into Florida with wind reaching 145 mph and a surge of sea water of 13 feet to 15 feet, Charley hit open ocean and made landfall again in South Carolina. It moved into North Carolina and up the eastern seaboard as a tropical storm before being downgraded to a depression Sunday.

In and around Punta Gorda, trailer home after trailer home lay toppled. Others were left apart entirely, exposing interior walls that had been pushed down flat. Splintered wood and shattered glass were scattered about.

Federal emergency officials said the state has requested catastrophic housing for 10,000 people, and more than 4,000 National Guard troops have been activated. Lt. Gov. Toni Jennings said 2,000 insurance adjusters were already on the ground and 2,000 more were on their way.



Workers repair traffic lights Monday in Orlando, Fla. Lack of power after being hit by hurricane Charley has many of the area's traffic lights not working.

FEMA was sending teams of medical, urban rescue and communication workers in addition to supplies. Power generators, cots, blankets, hammers, nails and portable toilets were unloaded from planes and trucks by members of Florida's National Guard on Sunday, then relayed for delivery to devastated areas.

Lawyer claims deal was made with N.J. governor

BY JOHN P. MCALPIN

The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — A lawyer for a man accusing Gov. James E. McGreevey of sexual harassment said Monday he had believed the governor would pay to stop his client from suing.

Instead, minutes later, the gov-

ernor told the world he had had an extramarital affair with a man and planned to resign, Allen Lowy said.

The claim by Lowy — who represents Golen Cipel, the former administration official identified by McGreevey aides as the governor's sexual partner — came as a new poll showed voters nearly evenly split about when McGreevey should go.

The Democratic governor said

he would leave Nov. 15, a date that has drawn criticism from Republicans and some Democrats because it would mean an acting governor would serve for more than a year. A quicker exit would allow for a special election.

America's first openly gay governor returned to work Monday, four days after his startling press conference.

Lowy said a verbal deal to stop a suit by Cipel was struck Thursday, five minutes before the scheduled start of the news conference.

"We had a deal," Lowy said. "The next thing I knew my secretary told me he's in the process of resigning. I was very surprised. I understood that they were satisfied and it was over."

McGreevey's spokeswoman Kathy Ellis called Lowy's version of the minutes leading up to the announcement "absolutely incorrect."

Lowy said the deal would have involved payment of money to Cipel, but he declined to say how much. Cipel is still considering filing a lawsuit, according to Lowy.

In the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, McGreevey appointed Cipel to a newly created post of homeland security adviser without any background check or official announcement.

Amid questions about what



Gov. James E. McGreevey

Cipel did to earn his \$110,000 salary, he was reassigned in March 2002 to a "special counsel" job and left the government a few months later.

Two sources close to McGreevey — a high-ranking administration member and a senior political adviser — have identified Cipel as the man involved in the governor's affair.

In an interview published Sunday by the Israeli daily newspaper Yediot Ahronot, Cipel maintained that he is not gay and said McGreevey repeatedly made unwanted sexual advances.

Honoring those who answered

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Democrats: Bush puts corporate interests first

Kerry, Edwards say Bush took donations, then made rules that hurt workers

BY NEDRA PICKLER
The Associated Press

KETCHUM, Idaho — Presidential nominee John Kerry and other Democrats are accusing President Bush of stacking the federal government with friends and donors who are gutting regulations on U.S. corporations.

Kerry, running mate John Edwards and supporters are stressing a theme this week that they've been campaigning on all year — Bush puts corporate interests ahead of workers and the middle class.

Bush campaign spokesman Steve Schmidt said Kerry has no standing to criticize, considering that the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics determined he has received more campaign contributions from lobbyists over the years than any other senator.

Schmidt also pointed out that Edwards,



Kerry



Edwards

a North Carolina senator, refused to release the names of his top fund-raisers.

"There is a great deal of hypocrisy in these attacks," Schmidt said.

The Kerry campaign also announced Kerry will donate \$6 million from his record-breaking \$225 million primary fund-raising to the Democratic Party's ef-

forts to win seats in the House and Senate.

The money will be split evenly between the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

With Kerry vacationing in Idaho, Edwards, a former trial attorney, was arguing the campaign's case that Bush has "the most aggressive anti-regulatory posture in memory" during a stop in Willard, Mo., on Monday.

"We've unfortunately seen too many examples of times when this administration should have stood up for the interests of working Americans but looked the other way instead," he said in prepared remarks. "When John and I are in the White House, the for-sale sign is going to come off the front door."

A Kerry-Edwards campaign report attempts to tie the donations from various in-

dustries to favors that the industry got from the administration. For example, it says:

■ The logging and timber industry gave more than \$1.5 million to Bush and got the right to log without the usual environmental reviews.

■ The coal industry gave \$300,000 to Bush and got less protection against black lung disease for workers.

■ The chemical industry gave more than \$1 million to Bush and got reduced regulations on chemicals exposed to workers.

■ The auto industry gave more than \$300,000 to Bush and got eased rules on reporting potential defects and a rule allowing truckers to drive 11 hours a day.

■ The restaurant industry gave more than \$1.2 million and got a regulation intended to prevent their workers from exposure to smoke killed.

The Kerry campaign also names many administration officials who used to work for the industries they now oversee.

Feds, N.Y. police monitoring all who might disturb GOP convention

BY TOM HAYS

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Federal agents and city police are keeping tabs on people they say might try to cause trouble at the Republican National Convention, questioning activists, making unannounced visits and monitoring Web sites

and meetings.

The law enforcement effort has been going on quietly, overshadowed in public by talk of counterterrorism measures planned for the Aug. 30-Sept. 2 event.

"We're not engaging in surveillance of groups or individuals without legal predication," said

Jim Margolin, spokesman for the New York office of the FBI.

Ann Roman, a spokeswoman for the Secret Service, said agents expect to respond to an increase in possible domestic threats against President Bush and other dignitaries at the convention at Madison Square Garden nears. The Secret Service is

also playing a lead role in planning convention security.

"How we do that specifically, I'm not going to go into," she said.

Law enforcement sources said that in recent weeks, federal agents have begun interviewing people in the New York City area they believe might know about any plots to cause mayhem at the

convention, and have used surveillance against possible suspects.

The intelligence unit of the New York Police Department has been closely monitoring Web sites run by self-described anarchists. It also has sought to infiltrate protest groups with young, scruffy-looking officers posing as activists.

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Disabled girl takes plane complaint to top

BY KRISTIE RIEKEN
The Associated Press

COPPELL, Texas — Rasha Kavar, who suffers from cerebral palsy and depends on an electric wheelchair to get around, is determined to live like any other 9-year-old girl — and travel like one.

Rasha has begun a crusade to make airplane restrooms bigger after having a hard time negotiating one in her wheelchair while flying home last summer from a visit with her grandparents in Israel.

She started an online petition asking Congress to pass a law that would require all new airplanes to have at least one wheelchair-accessible restroom. The petition is up to almost 5,000 signatures, and lawmakers and organizations that help the disabled are taking notice.

"It is one thing to be stuck on a plane with no accessible bathroom," said Stephen Bennett, president and CEO of United Cerebral Palsy. "It's quite another when a 9-year-old takes it to the level she has."

Last summer, Rasha and her mother burst into tears when they couldn't get Rasha's clothes back on after she used a small airplane restroom. Her mother, Laila Kavar, said Rasha looked at her and said, "This is so unfair. What are we going to do about it?"

When she got home, Rasha wrote a letter to President Bush. It took her about three weeks.

Rasha has little control over the muscles in her body, but can control her head. She can talk, but people who don't know her well have a difficult time understanding her. Instead, she communicates by using a pointer, attached to a piece of headgear, to type out words on a computer keyboard. Machines translate her words into audio or written text.

Despite her limitations, she attends public school in suburban Dallas with the help of an aide, and will enter the fourth grade this month. She learned to read at age 4 and finds it exasperating when people assume she is mentally disabled because of her wheelchair.



Rasha Kavar pulls her favorite toy as she walks during a therapy session at her Coppell, Texas, home with physical therapist Rosa Colloa, holding Rasha's legs, in June. Rasha began a crusade to make airplane restrooms bigger after she had a hard time negotiating one in her wheelchair last summer.



Laila Kavar, left, poses with her daughter, Rasha Kavar, 9, at their home in Coppell, Texas.

restroom would take away two to four seats on most airlines, which he said translates into millions of dollars in lost revenue.

The Americans with Disabilities Act does not cover airplane restrooms, he said, but the Air Carrier Access Act of 1986 requires that airlines be accessible to people with disabilities. That act requires airlines with two aisles to have one wheelchair-accessible restroom. Those with only one aisle, like the one the Kavar was traveling on, are not legally required to do so.

Rasha and her mother plan to send her petition to the major airlines as well as the Department of Transportation later this summer. The United Cerebral Palsy organization is helping Rasha collect more signatures by posting a short note from her and a link to her petition on their Web site.

Rasha says she will work as long as necessary for the change. She knows the fight will not be easy, but for a girl who faces daily battles with her own body to do the most basic tasks, dealing with adversity is second nature.

"Rasha has lots of determination," her mother said. "She does not accept that she cannot do things."

Rasha Kavar's petition:
<http://www.petitiononline.com/r91n216>

*"It is one thing
to be stuck on
a plane with
no accessible
bathroom.
It's quite another
when a
9-year-old takes
it to the level
she has."*

Stephen Bennett
President and CEO of United
Cerebral Palsy

Supporter U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, contacted the Federal Aviation Administration, which in turn contacted the Department of Transportation. The department sent Rasha a letter explaining the federal guidelines relating to accessible restrooms and said the main barrier to including those restrooms on all airlines is cost.

"Many airlines are losing huge amounts of money these days," wrote Robert C. Ashby, a regulation and enforcement attorney at the transportation department. "It's hard for the department to tell them to lose even more."

He said accessible restrooms would cost about \$12,000-\$13,000 each, but the major loss for airlines would be space. Adding one

Mark your calendar! Most foods get a day to shine

BY J.M. HIRSCH
The Associated Press

Feeling festive? Stock up on mustard, vinegar and oregano, and plan to give away some zucchini.

That's because the food industry's marketing wizards have deemed August time to celebrate National Biscuit-Cake-Mushroom-Potato-Rice-Monster and home to Hug a Texas Chef Month, National Waffle Week and Fortune Cookie Day.

It's not your imagination. The calendar is increasingly crowded with manufacturing holidays aimed at getting consumers to eat more of a surprising — and sometimes oddly paired — variety of foods. Vegetarians and pork lovers both claim

October. But that's not the half of it. Take note that it's also cookie and popcorn month — as well as National Dental Hygiene Month.

"In the last 10 years there's been kind of an explosion," said Holly McGuire, editor of "Chase's Calendar of Events," an annual directory of holidays and special promotions. That's partly because it's so easy to create these holidays.

Love a food enough to celebrate it? You've got a holiday.

Unlike federal or state holidays, events such as Peanut Butter Lovers' Month (November), National I Want Butterscotch Day (Feb. 15) and Eat Dessert First Month (May) are unregulated.

"There's just as much amateur sponsorship as there is professional. July is blueberries month. Of course the blueberry board sponsors that," McGuire said. "If you want to sponsor hot tamales day, no one's going to stop you."

Droves of food industry groups have declared days, weeks and months in honor of the edibles they sell. Originality and efforts to actually celebrate the events are the only requirements for getting them listed in "Chase's."

It's not as silly as it sounds, said Michael Mazis, a marketing professor at American University. There is a long tradition of successfully pairing products with holidays — think candy and flowers on Valentine's Day.

And though National Fig Week (Nov. 1-7) is unlikely to become the next Thanksgiving or Halloween, Mazis said that for most of these industries the chance for even a little publicity is worth the effort.

"After all, if you're a fig producer, how much publicity can you get (the rest of the year?)" he said. "This might be the one time of the year when you can get a little bit of PR."

Joseph Simrany, president of The Tea Council of the USA, acknowledges that few

people know January is National Hot Tea Month or June is National Ice Tea Month, but says awareness has grown since they were created 10 years ago.

His group spends nothing promoting the events beyond mailing out press releases. The goal is to get media organizations to use the promotions as hooks for stories on the featured foods.

National Seafood Month (October) is a bigger deal for the National Fisheries Institute, which spends more than \$20,000 a year promoting the event to restaurants and retailers.

Linda Candler, the group's spokeswoman, said the payoff is worth it. Though she, too, says most people don't know about the month, seafood sales generally go up in October.

And she doesn't mind sharing. October also happens to celebrate sun-dried tomatoes, country ham, chili, cookies, popcorn, pork, spinach, vegetarian food and no salt week.

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Offensive song?

I have just returned with 13 months in Baghdad. I learned that our rear detachment, with the approval of my battalion commander, was to play the song "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" upon our entry into the hangar at Wiesbaden Airfield, Germany.

I also found out that a sergeant major banned the song and refused to play it because he was African American and the song had originated during the Civil War and during the time of slavery. This offended him.

I am personally appalled at this, that we break Army tradition of welcoming soldiers home from combat with this song. What possibly be offensive about this song? Soldiers, to include African-American veterans, have used this song since the Civil War.

If this is the case, then we should ban "Garry Owen" since it was played by the 7th Cavalry upon raids of Native American villages; we should ban the Army song since it came out during the time of a segregated Army. Those pictures of the Buffalo Soldiers should be banned, since their prime mission was to destroy Native American villages. This is really becoming more stupid, but you can see what would happen if we let political correctness overtake our heritage and traditions that make us a great country.

When will this over-sensitivity ever end? The Stars and Stripes was created in the Civil War. Do we ban it, too?

Spc. Thomas Kirkland
 Wiesbaden, Germany

Thanks to medical personnel

I was recently wounded and evacuated from Iraq. During that process I was under the exceptional care of various medical professionals. I would like to publicly thank all of the soldiers, airmen and civilian volunteers in that support chain from the 31st Combat Support Hospital to Balad Air Base to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

These individuals do an incredible job taking care of wounded soldiers both medically and emotionally with so little recognition for their efforts. They are all real heroes, just as important as the combat soldier on the front line.

Spc. Richard Peters
 Baumholder, Germany

National Guard training

Let me put my 2-cents worth in on the training that the National Guard troops have received.

The National Guard troops that have been deployed to Iraq received all the training they needed. What they didn't receive was training in responsibility, discipline and respect. After their basic and advanced military training, all three of these items were thrown out.

Most of the Guard troops there are doing time behind them. These are

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not the ones doing the complaining. Private service troops know what to expect and go about doing their jobs with pride and responsibility. A lot of the younger Guard troops joined to get money for college. They weren't expecting to have to leave the comfort of home, where everything is done for them. All they wonder why the Guard is looked down on by the active troops. Maybe it's because we don't stay in uniform and we complain about burgers, living areas and write our congressman every time something happens we don't like.

I, for one, am satisfied in doing a good job on the best of my ability without complaining about every little thing. Remember, when our time is up, we go home. The active troops will go back to their post and do this all over again in six months to a year.

Staff Sgt. Anthony Trivett
 FOB Summerall, Iraq

Not working in his MOS

I find it strange that the number of soldiers in Iraq is expected to go up when there are many of us who aren't doing the job we have been trained to do.

Take me, for example. The Army paid thousands and thousands of dollars to train me to be a firefighter. I've been put on duty to guard an ammo supply point, guard Iraq truck drivers, water and ice resupply or even pick up trash.

The firefighters in our company aren't the only ones doing these details. Everyday I see other soldiers like us doing details that have nothing to do with our military occupational specialty. So, what's wrong with this picture?

We tend to approach warfare with "Let's throw nukes at 'em" without thinking it through. I can see the critical need for soldiers with a combat MOS to be here. It's the other side of the military, the combat support MOS, that is being overlooked.

Our country's taxpayers spend thousands of dollars training our soldiers in a particular MOS that was meant to be used during deployments. On top of that, money

is added to a soldier's salary during a deployment. I'm not even factoring in the cost to fly soldiers who are deployed. So basically, the military is spending millions of dollars so that several soldiers can pick up trash or go on guard duty.

I'm not saying that guarding Iraq truck drivers isn't important, nor is picking up trash. What I am saying is that it would make more sense to put soldiers to work in the job field they've been trained in. If there's too many soldiers for the job, don't deploy them and save the taxpayer a buck or two.

One example of this is the company I'm in. An ordnance company is designed so that one platoon can run an ammo supply point. We deployed four platoons and we recently consolidated to three. One platoon runs the supply point while the rest is put to work doing details.

I strongly believe that the government and our military leaders should re-evaluate the numbers to more appropriate levels. It could save 'em a buck or two.

Sgt. Cedric Canton
 LSA Anacoda, Iraq

Prices are hard to swallow

I have a question as to the regulating of the prices at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

The prices at the AAFES at Camp Anacoda, Iraq, for a case of Gatorade have more than quadrupled since the "heat" has increased. You used to buy a case for \$5, now it's \$21 per case. I have convoked to other camps in this theater and they serve Gatorade in the chow halls. Why is AAFES allowed to "price gouge" during these periods of higher temperatures? I thought AAFES was there to help serve the soldiers, not just lighten the load in their wallets.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Neil Burke
 Camp Anacoda, Iraq

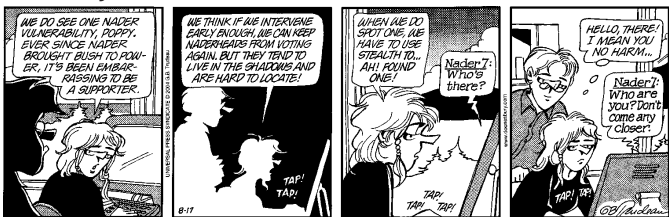
Night Out a success

The Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program of the Hanau community held its annual National Night Out on Aug. 3. This year's event was a great success and could not have been completed without the help and tireless efforts of the following persons/organizations: the 141st Base Support Battalion Provost Marshal Office; Rocco Benevento and the staff of the Hessen Bowl; Leon Garrison and the staff and students of the Galaxy Teen Center; Sonya Lloyd and the Rhein-Main Child and Youth Services; the 141st BSB Fire Department; Sgt. Muhammed Jones and organization; Eileen Brandt; JR Sports; Sgt. Kim Cardona; Staff Sgt. Stephen Cardona; Capt. Matthew Phelps; Lisa Wenke; Army and Air Force Exchange Service; S & K Sales Co.; The Herald Union; Marie DeLaPaz, the 141st BSB directorate of public works; Bianca Moton, and the staff of Hanau Outdoor Recreation.

Hats off to you all!

Demetria Watson
 Hanau, Germany

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



OPINION

Veterans' venture will let voices be heard

Two young Army officers with time in Iraq are the brains behind a new Web site called Operation Truth that will be launched later this month.

Joseph L. Galloway

Former Capt. David Chastain and 1st Lt. Paul Rieckhoff, who is still serving in the Army National Guard, hope to "educate the American public about the truth of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan from the perspective of the soldiers who have experienced them first-hand."

Toward that end they hope that their Web site, www.optruth.org, will provide a forum for soldiers and Marines still serving in Iraq or just returned, to tell their stories, post their digital photos and voice their complaints.

Chastain, a native of Muncie, Ind., and Rieckhoff, a native of New York City, said Operation Truth is a nonprofit soldiers advocacy organization and is nonpartisan, nonpolitical and not affiliated with any candidate. But, like the soldiers they hope will post on their Web site, they have more than a few bones to pick with those in charge of the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Rieckhoff told me, "This is just a big, big After Action Review. After an operation in the military we sit down and talk it over. What was good, what was bad and how do we fix what was bad. The only people who ought to be afraid are those who have screwed up."

Both Chastain, a chemical and biological

war specialist, and Rieckhoff, a Guard infantry officer, served with the 3rd Infantry Division in the attack that took Baghdad.

What they know is that today's all-volunteer military is made up of a very small part of America's population. Most Americans don't know anyone in uniform and no one in their family has served in the last generation or two.

"The dialogue between soldiers and the people they serve is gone, and we want to restart it," Rieckhoff said. "If the majority of Americans are content to be protected and defended by a small minority of volunteer soldiers then they need to pay attention to those soldiers and take care of them and their families."

Although it is nonpartisan, Operation Truth and the issues it wants to debate before the American people are likely to cause the Bush administration some heartburn. Their brochure says, "We intend to publicize how poorly planned policies and approaches have manifested themselves as problems on the front lines and back at home. We will act domestically to protect our troops and to aid them in their fight to protect us."

Some of the issues they hope veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan will sound out on include:

■ **Stop loss:** [It] is, Operation Truth says, a back-door draft, "a Band-Aid solution implemented to provide additional troop strength." They say stop loss is destroying the concept of a volunteer military, damaging to morale and "yet another indication that the original plan for war was flawed."

■ **The role of private contractors in combat zones:** Operation Truth says that companies such as Halliburton, KBR and Blackwater are weakening the military by draining away some of the most experienced



war-fighters with offers of much higher wages and better benefits. They add that introducing profit to the battlefield sets a bad precedent.

■ **The Department of Veterans Affairs:** The VA budget will be cut nearly \$1 billion by the administration in the fiscal year 2006 budget. In addition the VA is closing or drastically reducing services at 11 VA hospitals. Further, Operation Truth says, some 572,000 veterans are believed to be owed disability pensions but are unaware they are owed the money and no effort is being made to inform them.

The two also hope to press for improved national support systems for National Guard and Reserve soldier families. Those families need the same network of support and services the Army provides active-duty troops and their families.

These young American veterans, both in their 20s, raise valid issues and solid questions as they prepare to launch a Web site that could just as well be named The Voice of the Soldier.

Joseph L. Galloway is the senior military correspondent for Knight Ridder newspapers and co-author of the national best-seller "We Were Soldiers Once... and Young."

Putting a finger on electromagnetic-pulse threat

BY JACK SPENCER

Do you know that one missile, properly targeted, could disable the electromagnetic grid of the entire continental United States? Do you also know that even North Korea has weapons capable of doing this?

Here's how it would work. Rather than target the warhead at land, enemies deliver their payloads from 25 to 300 miles above the Earth's surface. There, radiation from a nuclear explosion would interact with air molecules to produce vast energy electrons that speed across the earth's magnetic field as an instantaneous, invisible electromagnetic pulse. Such an explosion would release a pulse strong enough to disrupt power grids, electronic systems and communications over the lower 48.

The United States never has prepared for this threat because experts long assumed it wouldn't matter. An EMP attack, the theory goes, would come as a precursor to a full-scale nuclear exchange with our Cold War nemesis, the Soviet Union. At that point, the state of the power grid would be the least of our problems.

But today, we must consider a giant electromagnetic pulse a significant threat on its own. The congressional Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack calls EMP "one of a small number of threats that has the potential to hold our society seriously at risk and might result in defeat of our military forces." A scientist who has studied the issue says an effective EMP attack could set back countries dependent on 21st century technology by 100 years or more.

The commission's report stressed that the United States needs to figure out who, among both states and nonstate actors, is ca-

pable of launching such an attack. Also, we need to know where we are most vulnerable, how we'd recover from such an attack and what it would take to protect our military and civilian systems.

Our military needs to retrofit some equipment to resist such attacks and insist that more new purchases come EMP attack-proof. Of course, the best defense against an EMP attack would be an effective missile-defense system that intercepts the missile before it reaches the United States.

It won't be easy, and it will be costly. Protecting electronics infrastructure requires that entire systems be encased in a metallic shield. Antennae and power connections must be equipped with surge protectors, windows must be coated with wire mesh or conductive coating and doors must be sealed with conductive gaskets.

Fiber-optic cable is not vulnerable to EMP, so it's in our interest to replace as much copper cable with fiber-optic as possible. We also need to protect the switches and controls that guide microelectronics in conjunction with fiber-optic cable.

In the future, such protections can be engineered into these products and structures, at an added cost of 1 percent to 5 percent of the price.

One step the United States can take for free is to develop a policy — and publicize it — that it would respond with devastating effect against anyone that launches an EMP strike. We also should ensure that portions of our military are protected against EMP, field active defenses (such as a missile shield) and passive defenses (such as switching to fiber-optic where possible) to reduce the damage done by such an attack and increase the risk for a would-be aggressor.

Hopefully, these changes, taken together, would deter anyone from launching such an attack.

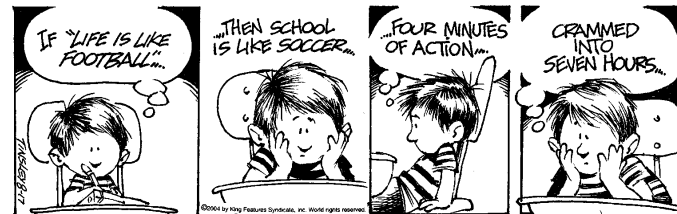
We should make it a priority to develop a plan not only to respond to such an attack but to recover as quickly as possible — and do so soon. All over the world, countries are attempting to join the nuclear club. Most would not be considered America's allies. Failure to address this significant vulnerability only encourages leaders already hostile to us to attempt to exploit this weakness.

There is real danger here. The technology that makes us the leader among the world's nations only makes us more vulnerable. We're unprepared now. That needs to change.

Jack Spencer is a senior policy analyst for defense and national security in the Davis Institute for International Studies at The Heritage Foundation, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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Man goes berserk

PA SOMERSET — A 38-year-old man stabbed himself several times in the chest, then ran out of his parents' beachfront home and jumped into the Taumant River, where he swam to avoid rescue boats for more than a half-hour, police said.

After the police on shore located James Maddaleno, five officers boarded the police department's marine patrol boat and responded to the scene.

The fire department's rescue boat, manned by two firefighters, assisted the police.

Two officers jumped into the river and were able to persuade Maddaleno to climb into the Fire Department's boat.

Police plan to charge Maddaleno with disorderly conduct.

Two killed in crash

IN TERRE HAUTE — A semi-trailer rear-ended a pickup truck on Interstate 70, triggering a chain-reaction crash that killed both people in the pickup and injured seven others, state police said.

The accident east of Terre Haute occurred as the semi driver approached a line of traffic that had stopped because of nearby construction. The impact lodged the pickup underneath the semi, which dragged it more than 800 feet and hit seven other vehicles, police said.

The names of the victims were not immediately available. The semi driver, Lester Jackson, 57, of Sunbury, Ohio, was not injured.

One of vehicles hit was a motor home, which spun around and caught fire almost immediately. The family inside managed to get out, officials said.

Workers closed the highway's eastbound lanes for the day.

The injured were taken to Terre Haute Regional Hospital. Two were treated and released, and three were air-lifted to a hospital in Indianapolis.

Man fakes disappearance

FL TAMPA — When police found a van belonging to a missing newspaper carrier, blood on the steering wheel and a bullet casing inside, they feared the worst.

But it turned out the disappearance and sudden reappearance of Tampa Tribune carrier Clair Hudak was all a hoax.

Hudak, a 54-year-old husband and father of two grown children, admitted to investigators that he faked it all.

"He disappeared for a few days due to personal reasons," sheriff's spokesman Lt. Rod Rader said.

Rader said Hudak will not be charged in connection with the faked disappearance. Since Hudak didn't report himself missing, the agency can't charge him with filing a false report.

Inmates tracked by GPS

ME PORTLAND — A pilot program intended to reduce overcrowding at Cumberland County Jail will use global positioning technology to track low-risk inmates who are released early.

Inmates will pay \$10 a day to



cover monitoring equipment as they go to work or attend drug or alcohol rehab meetings.

Tornado may have hit

VA DANVILLE — A suspected tornado caused widespread damage in this southern Virginia city Thursday, collapsing roofs and toppling trees and power lines, officials said.

No injuries were reported.

Dawn Eischen, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Emergency Services, said the storm destroyed a warehouse and collapsed the roof of a Wendy's restaurant and half the roof of a Marshall's department store in a strip shopping center.

"We suspect it was a tornado," Eischen said.

Susan Wright, assistant manager of the Marshall's, estimated about 150 people were in the store when the storm hit. She told The Associated Press that she herded panicked customers toward the back of the store as windows broke and ceiling tiles fell.

Eischen said one residential area, Forest Hill, was closed to everyone except residents because of downed trees. She said two power substations were damaged. At the height of the storm, nearly 10,000 customers were without power.

Man dies; case dropped

UT PROVO — Charges against the operator of a now-defunct medical-waste firm accused of dumping hazardous chemicals into Orem's sewer system were dropped last week, two months after the man died in Hawaii.



Freestyle practice

Todd Potter kicks his feet up during a practice jump in the grandstands at the Richland County Fairgrounds in Mansfield, Ohio. Potter was practicing for the Boost Mobile Freestyle MX.Com Tour Show.

David Ioane Kali, 65, died June 19, and charges were dropped Wednesday after a death certificate was presented to 4th District Court officials. The cause of death was not disclosed.

Kali had previously missed several court appearances this year because his lawyer said he was too ill to fly from Hawaii for proceedings.

Kali was charged in March 2003 with dumping dangerous levels of lead and zinc into Orem's water system over a three-year period.

The waste, which included three times the allowable limit of lead and high levels of zinc, was dumped into the sewer drain for nearly a year, even after Kali was warned that the discharge violated state law, according to the original charges.

Orem Public Works officials have said no chemicals reached the city's drinking water or Utah Lake, where the city's waste water goes after being treated. The charges allege Kali violated permits and pretreatment standards from March 11, 1999, through Feb. 7, 2000.

State AG sues EPA

MO ST. LOUIS — Missouri's attorney general Jay Nixon sued the federal environmental agency on Friday, saying it is behind on testing the state's air for lead as required by law.

Nixon said in a news release the federal lawsuit seeks to force the Environmental Protection Agency to comply with the Clean Air Act by conducting the air quality test.

He said a review is required every five years but one has not been done since December 1990.

High levels of lead have been found in some south Missouri communities, including in an area near St. Louis home to the nation's largest lead smelter.

Urn takes a sojourn

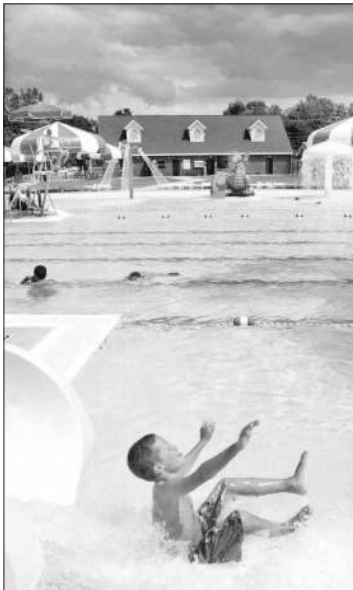
PA NEW HOPE — An urn containing cremated remains disappeared from its spot in front of a Bucks County family's home, only to be discovered by hikers in a nearby field, police said.

Upper Makefield police said the family had kept their aunt's green marble urn in front of the home for two weeks before it disappeared, and relatives speculated that floodwaters carried the urn on a journey down a small neighborhood stream before depositing it in the field where it was found Friday.

"This is certainly the strangest thing I've ever dealt with," Cpl. Richard Krause said. He said he suspected that someone stole the urn and left it in the woods.

Judge allows construction

LA LAFAYETTE — A federal judge ruled against the Concerned Citizens Coalition, a group trying to stop construction of a connector for Interstate 49 through Lafayette. The group's suit claims the Federal Highway Administration planned the interstate too close to a historic district and park. The proposed five-mile stretch of highway would be required to extend the highway south from Lafayette to New Orleans.



The pool to himself — almost Zach Jacobsen, 7, was one of seven children swimming at a pool Friday in Davenport, Iowa. The pool had been closed three days due to cool weather but opened when Friday's temperature reached 67 degrees, one degree above the minimum.



Heading for the Field of Dreams

flyer over a field while heading for the Field of Dreams for the flyover for the 13-and-over Babe Ruth World Series in Bay Burren, Ark.

Call Case pulls up after

Election 2004



**Find out where Bush
and Kerry stand
on military issues**

Page 3



**What's the most
important (voting) issue
for you this year?**

Pages 4-5



**Voting assistance
officers are ready
to answer questions**

Page 6

ELECTION 2004

Overseas military voters key to race

Experts say Bush-Kerry election could be close, making every vote vital

BY PATRICK DICKSON
Stars and Stripes

The two major parties have selected their candidates and staked out positions.

Polls show that the electorate is fairly entrenched, and with our Electoral College system, the election could turn on a few key states.

The voting assistance officers have fanned out to overseas bases and are reporting record numbers of people contacted.

If you do the numbers, folks, you'll see that the overseas military vote could decide the whole shootin' match.

"In an extremely close election, the overseas vote will no doubt be critical in many states," said Jamin Raskin, professor at American University in Washington, D.C., who teaches election law.

Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Missouri and of course Florida are just five states, all with significant numbers of electoral votes, that are polling as dead heats.

"Every indication, every piece of research that I've done on this election, tells me it's too close to call," said Victoria Farrar-Myers, associate professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Another factor, Farrar-Myers says, makes this year's race tighter than most.

"The military vote has trended Republican, that that's not news to anyone," she said. "But this year, there's an interesting twist."

[Sen.] John Kerry is the military candidate. He is a veteran, and he's after the military vote and the veteran vote.

"You [saw] it in the Democratic National Convention — 'John Kerry, reporting for duty.' He's going after the military vote, something the Democrats haven't really done. He's putting the military vote very much back into play."

"With George W. Bush, the military support is there, but it's off the time around there. There's an enormous strain on the military," Farrar-Myers said.

Raskin agrees.

WASHINGTON

Stars and Stripes

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JEREMY KIRK/Stars and Stripes

Second Lt. Brian Williams, left, a voting assistance officer with 8th Personnel Command, helps two soldiers register to vote July 30 at Trent Gym at Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, South Korea.

"What's about to happen in this race is anyone's guess," he said. "The war veteran is the Democrat, and the president has a sort of murky National Guard history."

The Bush camp vehemently denies this. "It's had to quantify the overseas military vote, but it's trended Republican and we don't anticipate that changing at all," said David Castillo, veterans coalition director at Bush-Cheney campaign headquarters in Arlington, Va.

"We feel that those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan understand that the president supports them, and that John Kerry turned his back on them when he voted against the \$87 billion supplemental [funding] package and was not present for the vote on the \$25 billion" that passed in June.

If the military vote did go to Kerry, it would be a fairly significant cultural shift, Raskin said.

"It's safe to say that the military vote has tended to support the incumbent during wartime. It also has leaned Republican for several decades now."

The pivotal moment was probably the Vietnam War, when the Democrats became the anti-war party. The electorate

was reorganized during the '60s along this cultural fault line, and the GOP began leaning to military strength and nationalism."

By the numbers

According to a report to the president and Congress from the Federal Voting Assistance Program, it is estimated that about 37 percent of U.S. citizens overseas vote. Overall turnout among the American public in the 2000 presidential election was around 50 percent.

But take heart: About 70 percent of military personnel do.

Americans abroad have not turned out to vote in large numbers, historically. Some see the registration and voting procedures, mailing and waiting, as unnecessarily complicated. And there have long been urban legends that their votes are not counted or just get lost or thrown away.

"Historically, I mean, [the problems of election year] 2000 are not new; there's been an ongoing problem with disenfranchisement with the overseas vote," Farrar-Myers said.

Raskin points to the 2000 election.

"The most graphic episode occurred with the Florida vote in 2000, where the overseas vote seems to have pushed Bush over the top. Florida was unique, because the votes came in in stages, so it was easier to track which way they [voted]."

"But with the legal resources being deployed by both sides," Raskin said, "no state is going to throw out piles of ballots."

An angry tone

What bothers many Americans is the nastiness and entrenchment on both sides.

CNN, once derided as the Clinton News Network, is considered liberal beyond hope, and liberals, or "progressives," as they now call themselves, scream bloody murder at Fox calling itself fair and balanced. Both sides have their attack dogs, and what were once sober analyses of views on the Sunday morning talk shows have turned into furious free-for-alls in prime time. You'd think a hockey game is going to break out at any minute.

"We're at a point in our country where it's either all about 'Fahrenheit 9/11' or it's all about ultra-Conservatism," said retired Army Gen. Tommy Franks, in town to promote his book, "American Soldier."

"My experience in this grand democracy," Franks said Aug. 9, "has been that life in America is somewhere between those two poles, and so I try to stay away from the hyperbole in this thing — that 'Well, Michael Moore had it all right' or 'he was a lyin', cheatin', no good son of a gun.'"

"I mean, there's fact and there's fiction involved in that particular piece, just like there's fact and there's fiction in the other extreme."

"But we ought to stop the business of saying, 'If you disagree with me, you're not a patriot. If you disagree with me, you're not a good American.' In my view, there's too much of that."

And so, my fellow Americans, send in those federal postalcard applications as soon as you can, and vote. It might just be you and those in your unit who change the course of history.

E-mail Pat Dickson at: dicksonp@stripes.osd.mil



Raskin



Franks

Wide world of voting information available on Web

The Internet can be a terrific resource for election information, or a complete waste of time. Or both! Have a look at some of these Elections 2004 sites:

■ www.georgewebush.com and www.johnkerry.com — Promises, promises. The candidates' stances on the big topics.

■ www.votender.org — And then there's Ralph Nader. He's running again.

■ www.presidentmatch.com — A short quiz on issues

and targeted at potential voters age 18 to 25

■ www.factcheck.org — A great way to shoot down those Internet rumors and junk e-mails

■ www.politics1.com — A site with a wide range of election news topics.

■ www.cookpolitical.com — A nonpartisan look at the political landscape in America.

■ www.youth04.org — A site run by college students,

and targeted at potential voters age 18 to 25

■ www.comedycentral.com/tv/shows/inddecision2004/ — Some silly stuff from Jon Stewart's crew at The Daily Show

■ www.jibjab.com — Home to the famous "This land is your land" parody with the weirdly jointed Kerry and Bush trading insults.

— Patrick Dickson

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Photo illustration by Peter Photikoe/Stars and Stripes

ELECTION 2004

Battle lines are drawn

President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry have brought the military "front and center" in this year's presidential race. Here are some of the issues and the stances that the two candidates have taken.



Kerry

Bush

END STRENGTH

Expand active-duty forces by 40,000, by adding two Army divisions. Kerry also would increase by 1,200 the number of civil affairs personnel – judges, physicians, bankers, health inspectors, fire chiefs, for post-conflict situations. He also would add 500 active duty personnel to the 4th Psychological Operations Group, the only such group in the Army.

Seeking a temporary boost of 30,000 soldiers. Focused on rebalancing the reserve and active components to reduce the need for reserve call-ups.

BASE PAY

Would follow current law of offering servicemembers the federal pay raise plus 0.5 percent. Said he was open to higher raises, particularly targeting entry-level enlisted personnel.

In 2002, his first budget year, he gave servicemembers a 6.9 percent pay raise. In 2003, 4.8 percent; in 2004, 4.1 percent; for 2005, scheduled 3.5 percent, all at least 0.5 percent above civilian raises.

HOUSING

Promises to accelerate the construction of new military housing by providing incentives for private developers to build new housing on or near military bases and lease it to military families at a rate consistent with their housing allowances.

The 2005 defense appropriations bill funded a reduction of out-of-pocket expenses for military families living off-base to zero, down from 15 percent in 2001. The administration promises that 163,000 inadequate housing units will be eliminated by 2007.

SGLI

Has said he would provide cost-free Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance to those in combat areas, for a coverage of \$250,000.

Signed a bill in 2001 to make spouses eligible for up to \$100,000 under the SGLI plan, and include children to be covered for \$10,000. No word on special cases for combat areas.

BASE CLOSURES

"It's premature to start going into a sort of anti-base closure war base-closing process when we're in a war with very hot spots around the world that may demand more from us, not less," Kerry said. Would delay 2005 round of stateside base closures.

Seeks a 2005 round of base closures in the United States. The Department of Defense has reported 25 percent of excess "capacity."

MISSILE DEFENSE

Reduce total expenditures on missile defense, but continue the program.

Providing \$10 billion for missile defense programs, an increase of \$1 billion from FY 2004 levels. Committed to developing effective missile defenses based on the best available technologies, to be deployed at the earliest possible date.

WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT

● Sensing and control technologies that will provide the foundation for effective operation of unmanned and robotic systems.

● Precision weapons, including directed-energy weapons that can produce lethal and nonlethal effects.

● Data-fusion technologies that will enable our military to act more decisively with enhanced situational awareness and greatly improved intelligence assessments.

● More digital divisions, harness the power of "network-centric" warfare, and improve tactical communication crucial to future military success whether the next enemy is a terrorist, an outlaw regime or a would-be peer competitor.

● Investment in new, nonlethal technologies, such as directed energy weapons that can incapacitate the enemy without risking the lives of innocent bystanders – for use in urban combat and stability operations so that America's forces are equipped to win the peace as well as the war.

● Unmanned aerial vehicles such as those used in the war against terrorism, which provide greater, longer-endurance intelligence and combat capabilities directly to the war-fighter at far less cost and risk to military personnel than manned aircraft.

● Unmanned underwater vehicles that can greatly extend the range and capabilities of submarines and surface ships at less cost and without risk to sailors.

● The Army's Land Warrior technology, which digitizes the communications and intelligence capabilities of the individual soldier to enhance situational awareness and combat capability.

● Small precision bombs, which increase the quantity of targets that each individual aircraft can strike.

● Bomber-defeating munitions to target the growing threat of deeply hidden weapons of mass destruction.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Claims the Bush administration has "broken relationships" with allies, and thus slowed America's progress in the war on terror. Insists his party's diplomacy will bring other nations back into the war on terror, and get them to put troops on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The President believes that the United States has a special responsibility to help make the world more secure. Acknowledges the value of coalitions, but refuses to allow any nation to veto U.S. action against an enemy.

Last election proved voters still vital to Electoral College

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. The Electoral College, whose members, and not the popular vote, ultimately decide who wins the U.S. presidency, won't keep 19-year-old Lance Cpl. Susan Moyer from casting a ballot in November.

"I'm going to vote. We're American and [voting is] something we have an opportunity to do that a lot of people don't," said the young Marine stationed at Quantico, Va. "And I'm a female. That's another reason why I want to vote. People fought a lot for a female's right to vote, and a lot of women in other countries don't get it, and I'm not going to give up my right to vote because of the Electoral College."

And she knows what it is. Sort of. "Yeah, I'm a little confused about it. I know a lot of people are. And a lot of people say they won't vote because they think their vote doesn't matter because I don't understand how the person the nation voted for can be different than who becomes president," she said, referring to the 2000 election in which the tallied popular vote favored former Vice President Al Gore but the Electoral College count put President Bush in office.

The Electoral College is a group of people, called electors, picked by each state who officially elect the president and vice president. The number of electors equals the number of representatives in both houses of Congress. The winner is the candidate who receives a majority, at least 270, of the 538 Electoral College votes; 535 for each of the states and three for the District of Columbia.

Electors are chosen at state conventions or can be rewarded for a job well done by political party leaders, said Rob Alexander, an assistant professor of political science at Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio. Each state political party has the same number of electors. In Virginia, for example, Republicans pick 13 people, Democrats pick another 13, and even Ralph Nader's camp has 13 representatives in the event he wins the popular vote, Alexander said.

The political party of the candidate who wins the popular vote in the state sends its electors to the state house in December to cast the actual votes that will elect the next president.

And that's why it's important for average citizens to go to the polls, Alexander explained. There are, however, the occasional "faithless electors," or those who fail to vote for the candidate to whom they pledged support, Alexander said. While there is no Constitutional provision to ensure an elector votes as they pledged, some states do have laws to penalize a faithless elector, though the laws never have been enforced, Alexander said.

For example, in 2000 a faithless elector in Washington, D.C., illegally abstained instead of voting for Gore as she had pledged, he said. "And nothing was ever done about it."

The Electoral College, created by the nation's founding fathers, guarantees each state's sovereignty in electing the executive branch leader, said Alexander and Professor Christopher Duncan, chairman of political science at the University of Dayton, also in Ohio.

"It also serves a broader agenda," Duncan said. "We really wouldn't want a person who only appeals to one particular region of the country."

One outcome of the process is that it "forces candidates to go out and campaign in places where there aren't a lot of people. They have to go west, and by west, I don't mean California. They have to go to Iowa and Ohio."

Duncan said he hasn't seen data to suggest the Electoral College dissuades people from going to the polls, "but it makes people angry," he said, also citing the results of the 2000 presidential race. Some argue it undermines the principle of one person, one vote.

In all states but Maine and Nebraska, it's "winner take all" in the Electoral College votes. Lawmakers in those two wanted to let electors cast votes mirroring the will of voters in particular districts, Alexander said.

But it serves a key purpose, said voter Army Maj. Lanier Ward, severely injured in June 2003 while serving in Iraq.

"Since I find myself defending the right to vote, I find it as a duty of our citizens to take the time to choose our civilian leaders and representatives."

"I still think our founding fathers were right in the way they designed the system," Ward said.



Moyer

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SEE COLLEGE ON PAGE 8

PETER PHOTO © Stars and Stripes

Source: The presidential campaigns and Stars and Stripes research



The number of presidential candidates. I'd like to see the legitimate formation of more than two political parties. With our incredible diversity, only two parties are not representative of the whole country.

1st Sgt. William Lemke
Wiesbaden, Germany



I think the most important issue is America's relationship with Iraq and how long the troops will be there in the coming years.

Navy Lt. j.g. Pete Grant
Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan



The war and homeland security. I'm afraid we may see an increase in terrorist attacks on the United States.

Pfc. Karina Arcia
Wiesbaden, Germany



My most important issue is my candidate's view on war and how he feels we should keep troops in Iraq.

Marine Pfc. Felix Baaz
Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan



It's the economy. Not so much the war. The job situation at home is not so good.

Sgt. 1st Class Darryl Clark
Heidelberg, Germany



Iraq. How long are we going to be there? Are we going anywhere after that? I also have some questions about how we got into the war.

Senior Airman Adam Saunders
Yokota Air Base, Japan



Health care is my main concern.

Marine Lance Cpl. Steve Colbert
Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan



Military pay raise. I think that those stationed overseas should get more money, because it can be difficult for spouses to find work.

Airman 1st Class Eric Donner
Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany



Homeland security. I feel that changing presidents in the middle of the war on terrorism could cause instability with homeland security.

Sgc. Travis Jackson
Bamberg, Germany



The war. I like the direction. We're doing good things in Iraq. But I want to know where each candidate stands on all the related issues.

Airman 1st Class Craig Smith
Aviano Air Base, Italy



Education. No one has really addressed it in this campaign.

Cadet Tom Pae
West Point
(visiting Yongsan Garrison)



The war in Iraq. I'd like to see the issues in Iraq solved as soon as possible.

Pfc. Colleen Blair
Kaiserslautern, Germany



Iraq. I want to see Bush finish what he started. Plus, he's good to the military.

Master Sgt. Bob Klawer
McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

Beh the b

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What is
important (v
for you t



The economy. It's about selecting the right person to do the job. If they can create more jobs, the economy improves.

Henry Roeder
Kaiserslautern, Germany



You think about the war in Iraq, and of course, being in the military. You hear from both sides, from both candidates... what each candidate is looking for — I hate to be selfish — but for our interest, the military's interest. And of course being a father... Iraq and other world deployments.

Staff Sgt. Tim Boyte
Osan Air Base, South Korea

mind ballot

Stripes asks:
the most
(voting) issue
this year?



The environment. More planet-friendly. Neither (major candidate) has really addressed it so far, so I'm still waiting.

Senior Airman Mike Ives
Aviano Air Base, Italy



All the money that's going to the war and helping them rebuild Iraq. We're losing soldiers every day. That war is never going to end.

Monica Erives
Heidelberg, Germany



This is my first time voting in an election, so I'm paying attention to how my candidate handles military issues and national security.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Michelle Vasquez
Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan



I'd say our fight against terrorism and national security.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Jeremiah Johnson
Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan



At home, unemployment. Abroad, it would be the war, of course.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Bruce Bagwell
Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan



The biggest thing for me is military pay. I think I heard one side say that they were going to reduce military pay. As long as they keep the pay to where we can survive both overseas and in the States, it should be good.

Staff Sgt. Ceresa Young
Misawa Air Base, Japan



I'd have to say the welfare of the poor. There are some that don't eat and others who have four or five homes. Someone who's in there who cares about that, whose mind and heart is for the well-being of the poor.

Senior Airman Jeremy Phelps
Misawa Air Base, Japan



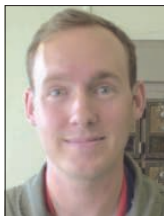
I'm the principal of a school. Education. I'm interested in finding out what's going on with the No Child Left Behind Act.

Melissa Klopfer
Principal, Aviano Elementary School
Aviano Air Base, Italy



Our relationship with other countries. Our ties to the international community, and groups we're a part of, such as the U.N.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Carroll
Misawa Air Base, Japan



Abortion and gay marriage are two issues on my mind. I'm strongly against both.

Capt. Ryan Boyle
Yokota Air Base, Japan



I'd have to say the war in Iraq because it affects us the most.

Cadet Peter Hagsstrom
West Point
(visiting Yongsan Garrison)



My candidate has to care about taxes and military support.

Marine Pfc. Matthew Anderson
Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan



For me, the most important issue is what's going on in the desert. How it's affecting the people there and the economy. It just seems like chaos. We need to get everyone back home as quickly as we can.

Senior Airman Jeremy Baker
Aviano Air Base, Italy



Jobless rate. If everyone is working and making some more money, buying houses etc., it would be a big boost to the economy.

Nool Van Hassel
Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany



Hmm... I'm not sure. Honestly, we don't know what's going on, I'm not going to lie to you.

Lance. Cpl. Stephen Lagasse
Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan

ELECTION 2004

In Europe, don't delay voter registration



PHOTOS BY RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Master Sgt. James Mc Gee, 469th Air Base Group voting assistance officer, left, helps Staff Sgt. Jennifer Manamea-Nelson fill out her Registration and Absentee Ballot Request last week at Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany.

BY LISA HORN
Stars and Stripes

Time is of the essence for troops who want to vote in this year's presidential election.

The U.S. Postal Service's recommended deadline to submit a postcard application form — which is used to register to vote — has passed. But it doesn't mean that local voting assistance officers are being up.

The deadline was set in the hope of avoiding the problems of the 2000 election, when thousands of overseas absentee ballots did not arrive in time to be counted.

Even if soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors missed the first deadline, the Army and Air Force commands say there will be a second push to help out the troops.

"In addition to making additional contact right now, we're also going to be pushing our [voting assistance officers] in the latter part of August to go out and do a second contact," said Maj. Ricky Harrington, U.S. Air Forces in Europe personnel officer.

USAFE and U.S. Army Europe officials had hoped to contact all soldiers and airmen by the end of the week. But Armed Forces Voters Week — Sept. 3-11 — will be one last chance for VAOs to reinforce concepts and advise troops of their voting rights and responsibilities, and to get last-minute postcard applications in the mail.

The commands said they do not track the number



An airman fills out the Registration and Absentee Ballot Request-Federal Postcard Application Form.

of servicemembers who have registered to vote, but rather the number of troops voting assistance officers have contacted about voting procedures overseas.

As of early last week, USAFE voting officers had contacted 79 percent or 26,900 U.S. military and DOD civilians assigned to the command.

USAREUR was unable to release its current figures, but the command said it had contacted 70 percent of its soldiers by the end of June.

"We expect to be close to 100 percent by Friday," said Army Maj. Brett Lindsay, 1st Personnel Command voting assistance officer.

SEE VOTING ON PAGE 23

Pacific voting assistance officers help make confusing process a little easier

BY JENNIFER SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Spc. Joe Brooks held his voter registration application in his hand in Yong-San Garrison's sweltering Trent Gym recently, promising he would fill it out after he confirmed his home information.

Brooks said he didn't vote in the last presidential election, attributing it to laziness. This year, however, Brooks — who described himself as a Democrat voting Republican this time — is charged up.

"I'm really excited because a lot of people have different views," said the 23-year-old personnel administrator.

Brooks is one of thousands of 8th Army soldiers in South Korea going through the service's Personnel Asset Inventory, a physical head count of every soldier in every unit worldwide. This year, U.S. Forces Korea commander Gen. Leon LaPorte incorporated voter registration programs into the asset inventory — virtually guaranteeing that every soldier in South Korea will be contacted by a voting assistance officer.

With the Nov. 2 presidential election nearing, the race is on to get Pacific-based troops registered to vote.

Voting assistance officers say the efforts are making a concerted effort to reach every soldier, sailor, airman and Marine — as well as civilian workers and family members — to avoid a repeat of four years ago. In the 2000 general

election, an estimated 29 percent of military personnel who wanted to vote did not get absentee ballots or received them too late.

Steve Stacy, the U.S. Army Japan voting assistance officer, said, "We're not supposed to talk about Florida."

But it's impossible to not talk about Florida. The state was pivotal in 2000 and changed the way military voting officers overseas do business.

The VAO job is an extra duty, but there's a much greater emphasis on the program, Stacy said, namely because the Defense Department reviewed each service's voting processes after the 2000 election and found shortcomings "with respect to people just weren't getting the word or they didn't understand that they could vote even though they were overseas working for the government."

Army and Air Force voting assistance officers in Japan, South Korea and Guam are mandated to contact every active-duty member in their units about voting. They're not allowed to be partisan in their approach, nor can they require a servicemember to vote.

"We're supposed to ask: 'Have you registered to vote? Do you know how? Do you need any assistance?'" said Maj. Darren Rhott, a voting assistance officer at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

The 50 voting officers for USARJ spread throughout Japan and Okinawa are required to hand a federal post card application to every soldier; it's a postage-paid document that gets one

registered to vote and on the list to receive an absentee ballot.

Individuals can print out the same application on the Internet at www.fvap.gov.

In South Korea, each soldier is likely to be approached at least twice, said Master Sgt. Marylynne Hayes, a voting assistance officer with the 8th Personnel Command.

"The reason, we like to think, is because the close outcome of the last election," said Col. Richard A. Rhodes, head of the 8th Army office. "It was decided by Florida, which was probably decided by absentee ballots. Soldiers realize that and know their votes actually mean something."

SEE ASSISTANCE ON PAGE 23



JEREMY KIRK/Stars and Stripes

Second Lt. Brian Williams, left, a voting assistance officer with 8th Personnel Command, helps two soldiers register to vote last month at Trent Gym at Yong-San Garrison in Seoul, South Korea. Military officials are putting a heavy emphasis on voter registration this election year, striving to contact with each servicemember.

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ELECTION 2004

Voting: Getting troops registered

VOTING, FROM PAGE 22

In an effort to reach all soldiers, USAREUR started handing out the federal form at unit formations in July, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Paul Young, USAREUR voting action officer.

"We talked to all the soldiers, we took them to all the Web sites of their home states and we went back a second time to make sure everybody was registered," said Sgt. 1st Class Matt Shea, of Headquarters and Service Company, 66th Military Intelligence Group in Darmstadt, Germany. "I would say we have 100 percent of

our soldiers registered."

The voting officers did their jobs making sure soldiers were informed, according to Spc. Dustin Pfaff, of Company A, 32nd Signal Battalion in Darmstadt.

"They made sure that we knew [about voting procedures]," Pfaff said. "I think it was battalionwide — all platoon leaders had to go to a class."

Pfaff, along with Spc. Thomas Allen and Pfc. Chris Carder, also of Company A, said they mailed their postcard applications after voting was discussed at a formation in June. They said they received notification that they were registered with their

states about a month later.

An additional 90,000 forms were sent to soldiers in deployed locations, Young said.

"If they register, that's going to trigger the ballot to come to them whether it's for the primary or for the general election," Young said. "So it's not something [service members] have to keep up with [every year] as long as they are registered and keep their address updated."

Ballots sent from deployed locations are to be postmarked no later than Oct. 11 in order to be counted in the November election. Troops in Europe are asked to send their ballots in no later than Oct. 15.

For servicemembers unable to get in contact with their voting assistance officer, the federal postcard application form can be printed off the federal voting assistance program Web site at www.fvap.gov and mailed at the voter's expense.

Forty-four states also allow voters to register by fax, Lindsey said. And Florida — the site of the last election's biggest controversy regarding overseas ballots — will e-mail ballots to its registered overseas voters for this year's elections, Lindsey said.

E-mail Lisa Horn at: hornl@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Assistance: Helping voters

ASSISTANCE, FROM PAGE 22

This year, Rhodes said, the command will have distributed more than 50,000 federal postcard voter registrations, which had an Aug. 15 deadline. The command also reaches out to civilian workers and family members and will be a source for absentee ballot information as well.

The command is airing at least four commercials weekly on American Forces Network television and radio stations, featuring LaPorte and 8th Army commander Lt. Gen. Charles Campbell urging soldiers to vote.

The Navy's goal was to reach every servicemember and civilian affiliated with the service by Aug. 13, said Lt. Eudora Franklin, voting assistance officer for Commander, Naval Forces Japan headquarters.

Servicemembers in the Pacific say it's hard to miss the message about registering to vote, whether it's cast from voting officers, base fliers, mass briefings or command radio and television promotions.

Turazeta Hose and Jade Dominguez, staff sergeants with 35th Services Squadron at Misawa, said they both have had "face-to-face interaction" with their voting officers.

Four years ago, while stationed at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, they didn't even know they had a voting officer, Hose said. Dominguez said she didn't vote then, but plans to this year "because I'm older."

The service hasn't reached all sailors: Seaman recruit Brandon Bromley, living on a berthing barge three weeks after arriving on base before assignment to the USS Kitty Hawk, said he had not been contacted. He said he definitely wanted to vote and planned to vote but did not know how to vote from overseas.

Air Force officials in South Korea say they also are embarking on an aggressive "100 percent contact" effort.

A big push will be made during the week of Sept. 3-11, which the Defense Department has designated Armed Forces Voters Week.

Joseph Giordano, Jeremy Kirk, Vince Little, Nancy Montgomery and Mark Rankin contributed to this story.

E-mail Jennifer Swan at: swanl@pstripes.osd.mil

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ELECTION 2004

College: States stay important

COLLEGE, FROM PAGE 19

said. "We often forget we are a federal republic where power is shared between the states and the national government. The Electoral College makes the outcome in each state important."

"If the system wasn't set up as it is, you would never see campaigning in Iowa, but rather at urban population focus points [such as] California, New York and Florida. Although we don't base the outcome on the popular vote, the individual citizen's vote is important to the outcome of each state election."

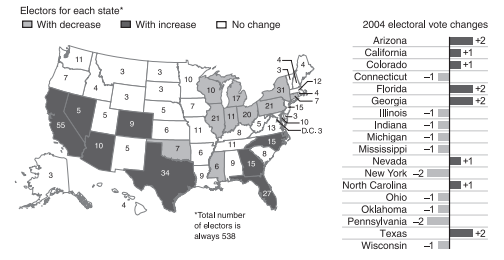
Are there problems with the system?

Army Maj. Dave Filer, an Infantry officer and formerly an assistant professor in the Department of Social Sciences at the United States Military Academy at West Point, says it's worth discussing.

"That is arguable; one might agree that the American public is smart enough — trust in the wisdom of the masses — to make a choice without having a system where state electors do it for them. Although, historically, the electors have pretty

Counting the electoral vote

The number of electors for each state is equal to the state's number of senators (always two) and U.S. representatives (based on population). Here are the changes for 2004, which reflect the results of the 2000 Census.



SOURCE: U.S. Federal Election Commission

AP/KRT/Stars and Stripes

much followed the will of the majority of people in the state. I think the argument about 'faithless electors' is overblown.

"Interesting to note, however, that we'd have a different president today if we went simply by the majority public

vote," said Filer, assistant director for Joint Strategic Plans and Policy for the Multi-national Security Transition Command in Baghdad.

"Question is, should we have a system today that was based on antiquated ideals of aristoc-

racy and distrust for the opinion of the masses? Maybe the American people as a whole are 'smart enough' today to know who they want selected for president. Maybe not."

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontz@stripes.osd.mil

A voter's Top 10

Ten things you can do to ensure your absentee vote is counted, according to the Federal Voting Assistance Program:

■ Contact your unit/emergency organization Voting Assistance Officer for help in absentee registration and voting.

■ Visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Web site at www.fvap.gov for information on the absentee registration and voting process.

■ Make sure that you have applied for your absentee ballot using the hard copy or online version of the Federal Post Card Application.

■ Make sure your local election official has your current mailing address.

■ Sign and date all election materials.

■ Fulfill your state's witness/notary requirements, if required.

■ Make sure your ballot or FPCA is postmarked.

■ Register to vote and request your ballot in a timely manner — no later than September. A lot of deadlines have been floated out there — do it now!

■ Mail your ballot not later than Oct. 15. (Oct. 11 is recommended from deployed locations.)

■ Use the Federal Write In Absentee Ballot if you are overseas and your state absentee ballot does not arrive in time to be mailed back by the state's deadline.

Your right, your privilege, your duty.
America needs you.

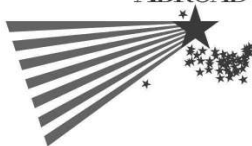
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www.democratsabroad.org
www.overseasvote2004.com

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- Worked to bring the WIC mother and child nutrition program to our bases overseas.
- Fought to protect veterans' benefits.

DEMOCRATS
ABROAD





New ferry sets off

A Staten Island ferry, the Guy V. Molinari, begins its journey to Staten Island, N.Y., from a Marinette, Wis., shipyard passing by the Sarnia area on the St. Clair River. The ferry is expected to arrive in New York harbor next month. The boat left the shipyard Thursday after numerous last-minute mechanical adjustments. It is the first of three new ferries being built.



Summer swings

Atlantic County's Ian Law warms up before an at-bat in the 38th annual Bridgeton Invitational Baseball Tournament in Bridgeton, N.J.



Taking cover

Pedro Juarez, 2½, left, joins brother Jose, 15 months, beneath an umbrella as they wait with mother Esperanza Juarez to cross a street in El Paso, Texas.



Ready for the pass

Case Brister, 20 months, of Lampasas, Texas, readies to throw a football to his babysitter as his father, Lampasas High School linebacker coach David Brister, prepares to take a varsity team picture during media day at Badger Field in Lampasas.

Big drug bust made

FL ST. PETERSBURG — The moving truck, packed with cardboard boxes and wood crates, pulled into Hide-Away Storage Services about noon. Howard Powell had just finished unloading 11 boxes when federal agents swooped down on the business.

Inside the semi-trailer, 4,179 pounds of marijuana, the largest non-maritime marijuana seizure in Florida in two years, agents said.

Investigators said the 2 tons of pot is worth \$3 million. A typical federal marijuana interdiction nets only 100 to 500 pounds.

Authorities arrested Powell, a Jamaican national, on federal charges of conspiring with others to possess and distribute marijuana.

Investigators say Powell, 27, of Miramar, is a middle man, a trusted associate in a "very high-level" operation. He told investigators he was paid \$5,000 to meet the delivery.

Couple poisoned in plane

NH GILFORD — A couple who apparently got sick from carbon monoxide in a small plane is in stable condition. William and Diana Truman are being treated at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon. Jennifer Truman took control of the plane and landed it safely with the help of an air traffic controller after her father passed out in the cockpit.

Dad faces gun charge

TX RICHMOND — After a teacher found a loaded pistol in the backpack of a Richmond second-grader, the boy's father faces a misdemeanor charge of making a firearm accessible to a child.

Frank Greaves told Fort Bend Independent School District investigators that he had put the .380-caliber semiautomatic pistol in a pocket of the backpack a while ago and forgot that it was there.

The boy apparently didn't realize there was a gun in his backpack, said district spokeswoman Mary Ann Simpson. She told the Houston Chronicle that no action would be taken against the child.

The boy's teacher at Barbara Jordan Elementary School was helping students take out new school supplies on the first morning of school and felt something heavy in the backpack.

"Fortunately, none of our students saw the gun and no one was hurt," school principal Yvette Blake said in a letter sent home to parents.

The Class C misdemeanor carries a fine up to \$500.

Tutor pleads to sex crime

NY MINEOLA — A woman hired to tutor an 11-year-old boy has pleaded guilty to rape and sexual abuse of the child and faces six months in jail and 10 years probation when she is sentenced later this year.

Kathy Tuifel, 46, of Hicksville, pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree rape and two counts of second-degree sex abuse before Nassau County Court Judge Jeffrey Brown.

Tuifel could have faced 5 to 25 years in prison if she had been con-

victed on all three counts. In addition to jail and probation, Tuifel will have to register with state authorities as a sex offender.

Twin delivers twins

PA WYNNEWOOD — The odds of a fraternal twin giving birth to two sets of identical twins may be one in a million, but Geana Morris can attest to it.

She delivered the quadruplets — two boys and two girls — on her 34th birthday at Lankenau Hospital. Mom and babies were doing well, hospital officials said.

"It's a very special birth day for me," said Morris, herself a fraternal twin.

Morris was implanted with two embryos in January, with the hope of carrying one to term. She and her husband, Kurt, also have a 2-year-old son.

Dr. Andrew Gerson, who delivered the babies, put the odds of such an occurrence at about one in 1 million quadruplet births.

Each of the newborns weighed between 2 and 3 pounds. Doctors hope the babies, who are receiving some help breathing, can be sent to their suburban Philadelphia home by the end of September, about a month before their mother's due date.

Doc gone wild

NH AUBURN — An assistant state medical examiner charged with dispensing controlled drugs and attempted sexual assault awaited a preliminary hearing.

Gene Nigro, 46, of Exeter, was charged with trying to assault a 21-year-old man after injecting him with a drug.

Nigro, who has been suspended from the medical examiner's office, waived a probable cause hearing in Auburn District Court.

Prosecutors said Nigro has a nearly 20-year history of playing men with alcohol and drugs, then trying to have sex with them.

Fish jam dam turbines

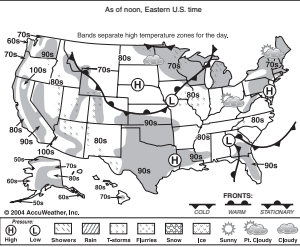
GA AUGUSTA — Officials interrupted power generation several times at Turnmond Dam recently after tens of thousands of fish were killed in the dam's hydroelectric turbines. Most of the dead fish were blue-back herring, which school in large numbers near the dam during summer months. Jamie Sykes, a district fisheries biologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said about 18,700 fish were killed Friday, 13,300 on Saturday and 14,120 on Sunday.

Fraud a numbers game

MA BOSTON — Nearly half the state's drivers are leaving themselves susceptible to identity fraud by failing to replace their Social Security number on their licenses with a scrambled, state-assigned number, officials said.

Beginning in October, drivers who renew their licenses online will no longer have the option of using their Social Security numbers, and those who renew in person at a registry office will be given a state-issued number unless they specifically ask otherwise.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



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STARS AND STRIPES.

Horoscope

Jupiter and Saturn aspect one another in a way that lets us know how we're doing — a cosmic "check-in" to be sure that we're ready for what's to come. Have we really learned our lessons from the past? Are we fit to receive what we're asking for? These questions and more will be answered the weeks to come.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(August 17). You've got the strength and conviction to run a marathon this year (or whatever that would be in your world as it now is). September finds you attracting all kinds of attention — you're super-desirable to just the person you'd like to captivate. October calls on you to be aggressive because if you snooze, you lose. Love signs are Aquarius and Libra.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

As the sun moves and the light changes through the day, so will your mood. But your fans love you in every mood — even the salty moods. What you've got to accomplish is far more than you can do alone. Get help.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Foreign territory calls to you, and you have brave enough to answer the call. You'll have to learn the ropes in this new arena. Choose your role model very carefully. Attractive but selfish people have little to teach you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

If you're to stay positive in a relationship, you'll have to clear up the blocks to free-flowing communication. The temptation is to put all that you've been thinking, but once a hurtful truth comes out, you can't take it back. Be strategic.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

You're subject to powerful influence. You could meet someone who sparkles in your eyes. Instant intuition ensues — the kind that makes you want to run five miles and read books to make yourself more intelligent.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

With a few weeks, a relationship could really be enriching to both parties.

Your need for intimacy grows, and so does your ability to ask for it. You fear rejection but move forward anyway, which is why you'll ultimately be fulfilled.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

In matters of finance, you've been holding back out of fear. That's got to stop! You'll make more as you resolve to do so. Don't worry about the "how" right now — just concentrate on creating the feeling that you deserve abundance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

When a partner fails to meet an obligation, you're the one who is required to pick up the slack. The favor will be returned to you later, but be sure to reinforce to your friend that this can never happen again or it becomes a habit.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Feelings can be deceptive and overblown, especially when you're a sensitive Scorpio. But it's time to trust those wily emotions in spite of how they've wronged you in the past. Let your heart lead the way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Do your research. What you don't know could hurt you! Be willing to uncover facts that don't support your current opinion. The more information you can gather now, the better your decisions will be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

You're aware of your motivation, so you skillfully make the most of complex situations. You're not hung up on the particulars, but instead, you're intent on meeting your heart's aims. It's easy for you to create win-win solutions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

A central relationship takes your focus now. This partnership has come a long way but still has a long way to go. You may have to wade through emotional garbage in order to get to the real reason you're still with this person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

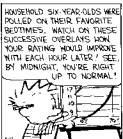
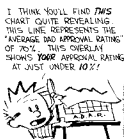
A change of scenery will knock out the "blahs" and put you in a playful mood. When you're the "new guy" in the environment, you'll always quickly surrounded by intrigue and extra attention. Bask in it while you've got it.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Sex drive differences cause friction

Dear Abby: I'm writing regarding your reply to "Needs More," whose sexual appetite is bigger than her fiancé's.

You advised her not to marry him because of it. I disagree.

I have been married to a wonderful man for three years. Had I let our differing drives stop me from marrying him, I would have missed out on a loving, mature, attentive husband and father to our children. I actually think I have it better than many women out there whose husbands demand sex daily.

There is more to a relationship than sex. My husband shows me love and affection in hundreds of other ways.

Perhaps "Needs More" should take a closer look at their relationship. If sex is the only thing lacking, other ways of physically expressing love — like hugging, holding hands and kissing — could be substituted. If she nur-

tures her relationship in all the other ways, she may find, as I have, that his desire grows with time. Libido fades with age; love does not.

— Satisfied in All Ways in Knoxville

Dear Satisfied: You and your husband have been able to negotiate past your differences and make your marriage a fulfilling one. That is not the case with many of the wives and husbands who write to me. Sometimes I wish I could run a dating service for all of the mismatched couples who feel sad, frustrated, isolated and unat-



Dear Abby

they love. The reasons for a low sex drive can vary. Read on:

Dear Abby: That letter from "Needs More" could have been written by me 20 years ago. I married my best friend, who also had very little interest in sex. During our six-year marriage we

argued frequently and I felt more and more undesirable. When I finally found the strength to leave the marriage, it broke both our hearts.

Two years later, my ex realized that he was gay. It made so much sense in retrospect. I agree with the advice you gave "Needs More." She should keep her fiancé as a friend, but she should not marry him.

— Been There, Done That in Virginia

Dear Been There: Thank you for sharing your experience. The mail I have received from readers has been divided on this issue. About one-third came from women, like yourself, whose husbands turned out to be gay. Another third said the problem had been caused by a hormonal or chemical imbalance or depression, which had been successfully treated. The rest felt I should reconsider my advice.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby>

Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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A: OF

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Jumbles: FATAL CLUCK IRONIC ALKALI

Answer: What the actor made backstage — A CUR-TAIN CALL

Conflicting views about mom's dress

Dear Annie: This is for "Rubbed the Wrong Way in Lincoln, Neb.," the stay-at-home mom who complained because a woman wore a thong swimsuit in front of her children. The mother took a photo of the woman and anonymously hung it on her door with a waseacre caption. What a crude and mean thing to do. If someone did that to me, I would call the police and hope to have her arrested for harassment.

And where did her children learn to call the neighbor by the distasteful and low-grade nickname "The Butt Lady"? Neither this woman nor her children sound like models of decorum to me.

At my health club, these women think they own the pools merely because they have their kids with them.

I would be ever so grateful if

Annie's Mailbox



someone would dis-odge these women and their screaming off-spring for just one day.

— Rochester, N.H.

Dear Rochester: Most of our readers do not agree with you. Read on:

From Kentucky: We had a similar situation. "Jen" was a 30-something, well-built blonde who always came to the pool in a string bikini, then would pose, stretch and show off in front of everyone. Leers, jeers and comments did not stop her.

Several of us decided to fight back. These gals, of every shape and size, paraded around in front of Jen in similar attire. One rather overweight older woman arranged to have a bikini "malfunction" in front of Jen and her hubby. She got the message.

Boston: You said if the building has no dress-code restrictions,

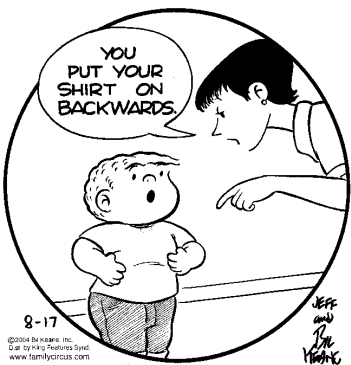
there wasn't much she could do. If it's a resort, she can get together with other residents to petition the trustees to adopt dress-code restrictions. If the trustees refuse, they can organize to elect new trustees. If it's a rental, I would think a landlord might respond to a large number of tenants asking for a dress or behavior code at the pool.

Highland, Ind.: Since she is getting no help from the landlord (I'm sure he is enjoying the scenery), please advise her to check with her local police department regarding the woman being in a state of partial nudity in public. It may seem like a drastic measure, but I wouldn't think twice about it if my children were exposed to public indecency like that.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annielanders@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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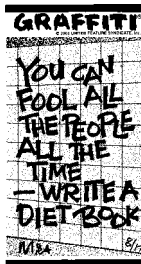
Family Circus



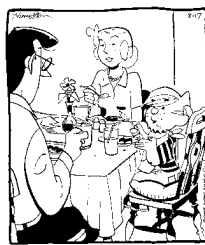
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"No, I was facin' the same way as always."

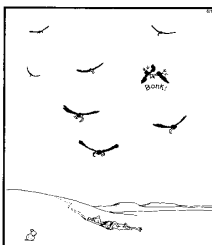


Dennis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



The perils of improper cinding

Non Sequitur



FACES 'N' PLACES

Vegas wedding for Hilton heiress

Nicky Hilton, the hotel heiress and socialite, has tied the knot with her beau in a late-night ceremony in Las Vegas, according to court filings obtained by The Associated Press.



Nicky Hilton

2:30 a.m. ceremony.

George Maloof Jr., owner and operator of the Palms casino hotel, confirmed the ceremony had taken place and said the couple gave no indication of their plans.

Salsa musician named tourism minister

Famed salsa musician Ruben Blades will be Panama's new tourism minister, said President-elect Martin Torrijos.

Torrijos, who takes office Sept. 1, announced Friday he would raise the Panamanian tourism institute to Cabinet level at the same time he named Blades to head it.

The singer-songwriter and Harvard-educated attorney ran for president in 1994 but decided to back Torrijos in this year's election.

Actor backs out of Haiti celebration



Glover

Actor Danny Glover backed out of a cruise commemorating the Haitian bicentennial, saying he did not want to appear to support the government installed after Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted as president.

Poet Sonia Sanchez also canceled. "Due to the increasingly critical political situation in Haiti, which resulted in a loss of life, oppression and incarceration of thousands of Haitians, I have canceled my participation," Glover told The Miami Herald before the Caribbean cruise set sail on Saturday.

Few details about moviemaker's new play



Allen

It's set in Brooklyn in the 1950s, but that's all anyone is saying about the plot of Woody Allen's new play, "A Second Hand Memory," which will have its world premiere in November at off-Broadway's Atlantic Theater Company.

The production, which opens Nov. 22, will be directed by Allen and will feature a cast that includes Michael McKean, currently playing Edna Turnblad on Broadway in "Hair-spray"; Martha Plimpton, and Dominic Chianese, best known for playing Uncle Junior on "The Sopranos."

Can you go home again?

Singer Amy Lee of the Grammy award-winning rock band Evanescence returned home for the final show of the band's latest tour.

Lee said in an interview Saturday at Alltel Arena, across the Arkansas River from her hometown of Little Rock, Ark., that it was a bit "weird" to be home.



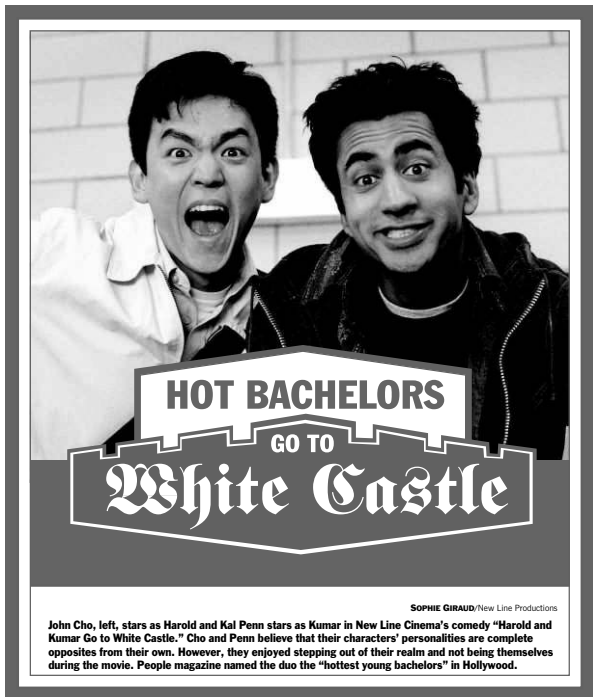
Lee

"I don't like the attention of 'You're famous so talk to me,'" Lee said. "Well, why do you want to talk to me? Just because you think I'm going to make me cool? That's something I don't understand really."

Lee said when she's in Little Rock, many fans ask if she remembers them. She said her family moved around a lot when she was young, but came to Arkansas when she was 12 or 13 years old.

The band's debut album "Fallen" went platinum and earned them two Grammys last year for best new artist and best hard rock performance for the single, "Bring Me to Life."

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



SOPHIE GIRAUD/New Line Productions

John Cho, left, stars as Harold and Kal Penn stars as Kumar in New Line Cinema's comedy "Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle." Cho and Penn believe that their characters' personalities are complete opposites from their own. However, they enjoyed stepping out of their realm and not being themselves during the movie. People magazine named the duo the "hottest young bachelors" in Hollywood.

BY BETSY PICKLE
Writes Howard News Service

John Cho and Kal Penn pulled a knot through as roommates who go on a fast-food adventure in "Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle."

Cho plays Harold, an uptight investment banker. Penn plays Kumar, a slacker determined to keep cruising on his father's dime while dodging medical school.

"I tend to be, in real life, more of a Harold type than a Kumar, so it was really fun to play this character that just was so laid back and didn't care," says Penn.

"It was really hard for me playing Harold because in real life I'm more like Kumar," says Cho. "And actually, acting-wise, I'd come off of broader stuff. The last gig that I had was a sitcom, and I was the funny man in the sitcom."

"Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle," which opened July 30 in the States, has been promoted as a comedy starring "the Asian guy" from "American Pie" and "the Indian guy" from "Van Wilder." But readers of People magazine got to see the actors in a different light this summer — both were featured in a spread on Hollywood's hottest young bachelors.

Fans who meet them are often surprised when they don't match the characters they've played on screen,

either in demeanor or in appearance, Cho and Penn say.

"I get, 'You're better looking than I thought you were,'" says Cho, 32.

"I get that, too. 'Better looking in person than you are in movies,'" says Penn, 27. "I feel like partially that's a good thing because if I meet someone, I'd rather look better in person. But I know that a lot more people are gonna see me in a film than I will ever meet, so it's weird."

Born in Seoul, South Korea, and

"I get, 'You're better looking than I thought you were.'"

John Cho
Actor

reared in Los Angeles, Cho earned a bachelor's in English literature from the University of California at Berkeley.

New Jersey native Penn attended a performing-arts high school in his home state before entering the UCLA theater program. After years of working in supporting roles, it was a pleasant challenge to play the lead, says Penn.

"You get to sit down with the director and with the other actor and the writers and define who this guy is and talk about the way the journey's going and get on the same page with everything. As opposed to a lot of the smaller, sidekick characters that I've played before where you're coming

into a situation that's already been established," he says.

Cho was taken aback that the character had been written for him.

"I had met one of the writers at a screening, and he had told me about it," recalls Cho. "Really, my trepidation was that he said, 'I've written this part, and I've got you in mind.' And I thought, 'Oh jeez.'"

"Because sometimes if people had written a role based off of your 'Van Wilder' or based off of seeing me in 'American Pie,' I'd think, 'Is it the same thing again?' So I was a little bit, like, I don't want to say suspicious — that sounds like a strong word — but somewhere approaching that, I'd say."

Although neither will confess to spending an entire night stoned and looking for little square hamburgers (Penn doesn't eat beef), they're familiar with being obsessed. For Penn, the quest was to be an actor.

"Mine was a girl," says Cho. "One time (in college) I was driving home for the weekend, and I turned the car around and went the other way and went a few hundred extra miles to see this girl."

"That's the funny thing — anytime you want something in a movie, you've gotta bring up the girl in your head, for me. The burgers become the girl. It's the easiest thing to access for me."



Phish guitarist Trey Anastasio, left, plays with bassist Mike Gordon during the final day of the Phish festival Sunday in Coventry, Vt. Phish announced they would break up at the festival's end.

Phish gives fans heartfelt phinish

BY TIM McCAHILL
The Associated Press

COVENTRY, Vt. — Concert lights darkened and more than 60,000 fans fell silent as Phish took the stage for its final gig, capping off a series of farewell concerts that marked the end point of the band's two-decade-long history.

With the somber rock ballad "Fast Enough For You," Phish captured the bittersweet feeling that pervaded its last shows, staged over a two-day festival in northeastern Vermont, the jam band's home state.

Some moments during the 48-hour musical rollercoaster were sad, such as when lead singer Trey Anastasio held back sobs as he thanked fans for their devotion.

"We're having some emotional ups and downs up here, as I'm sure you are," Anastasio said during a break in the second set. "We've tried to express it verbally, in as many ways we can, the love and appreciation you've given us. Really, thank you, from all four of us."

Overcome, Anastasio began crying as thunderous applause and shouts of support rippled across the audience. "The emotional interlude echoed the sentiment of the melody that preceded it, 'Glide.'"

"And we're glad, glad that you're alive," Phish members sang a cappella against a rural backdrop of farms, rolling hills and open expanses of field.

Phish announced earlier this year that it would break up after this weekend's festival, eliciting reactions among fans that ranged from anger to acceptance. Those same emotions were obvious during Phish's final appearance as a band.

"I think that Trey is selfish," said Sean Mullady of Rockville Center, N.Y. "Phish is ending it, there's no band to take over the subculture."

Others were more optimistic about what the future holds for "Phish heads," the nickname for followers of the band.

Chelsea Terrell, 31, of San Francisco, said the band's departure from the music scene meant that it was time to move on.

"For me, it's time to start something new," she said. "I'm thankful it ever happened."

Fans had another reason to be thankful during Phish's ultimate gig: the weather. Sunday was the second sunny day in a row after a week in which torrential rains turned the site of the concert, the 600-acre Newport State Airport, into a squishy, mucky swamp.

Despite the clear skies, groups of fans were seen filing out of the festival during the day.

Twenty-five-year-old Derek Finholt of Salem, Ore., said the bad weather earlier in the week prompted his decision to leave.

"I'm having a good time, but the water really dampened people's spirits," he said as he stood on the airport runway waiting for his car to be towed out of the ankle-deep mud. "The concert had so much potential."

Bog-like conditions forced organizers Saturday morning to turn away arriving fans by setting up roadblocks on nearby Interstate 91 and some local roads leading to the festival site. Most were undeterred, and paid to park their cars at private homes near the festival or left their vehicles abandoned on the highway to walk to the concert. Early Monday, Phish fans were streaming out of the concert site on their way home, and police reported no major traffic problems.

Beer's tribute falls flat for some

BY JULIET WILLIAMS
The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Miller Brewing is celebrating the "50th Anniversary of Rock 'n' Roll" with eight commemorative beer cans that feature Rolling Stone cover shots of Elvis Presley, Blondie and others.

What's missing, some say, is a black artist. Robert Thompson, a professor of pop culture at Syracuse University, called the absence "beyond conspicuous," because black artists often are credited with inventing rock 'n' roll.

"It would be like doing a set of cans of six great Impressionist painters and not including any French people on it," he said. "It leaves out an enormous amount."

The promotion, which ties rock's anniversary to Presley's debut at Sun Studios, also depicts Alice Cooper, Bon Jovi, Def Leppard and Willie Nelson, as well as the guitars of Eric Clapton and Joe Walsh, on cans being issued this summer by the brewer and the magazine.

Gary Armstrong, chief marketing officer for Rolling Stone publisher Wenner Media, said race wasn't a consideration when choosing the artists.

"We didn't even consciously think pro or con, the same way that the only woman on there is Blondie. We just went with the people that we thought were appropriate," he said. "We went through [the covers] and said these people we don't think are appropriate, or wouldn't appeal to Miller drinkers."

Six of the initial 10 inductees into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland in 1986 were black, including Chuck Berry, James Brown, Ray Charles and Little Richard.



Some Miller Brewing promotion cans are seen outside the company's Milwaukee brewery on July 28. The commemorative beer cans, celebrating the "50th Anniversary of Rock 'n' Roll," feature Rolling Stone cover shots of Elvis Presley, Bon Jovi, Willie Nelson and others.

Miller spokesman Scott Bussen said the company started with a broad wish list, but its choices were limited to Rolling Stone covers.

Armstrong noted that Rolling Stone wasn't around for the birth of rock 'n' roll — it debuted in 1967, years after many formative black artists of the genre emerged. And some artists who appeared on its covers balked at being associated with a promotion involving alcohol, he said.

Thompson said everyone has an opinion when it comes to rock, and maybe the cans were meant to generate buzz more than anything else.

"My guess is a lot of people will have a lot to say about this list," he said. "Ofentimes that's the point."



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Rally in 10 puts Twins in control

Twins in control

Indians fall two games back with another series on way

The Associated Press

The Minnesota Twins left Cleveland clinging to first place in the AL Central—and already looking ahead to their next showdown with the surprising Indians.

"There are a lot of games left, and I think both these teams are going to be playing some home baseball," Twins pitcher Terry Mulholland said.

Corey Koskie hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning Sunday to give the Twins a 4-2 comeback victory and a two-game lead over the second-place Indians.

"It is nice to get out of here with a win," manager Ron Gardenhire said.

The teams have 10 games remaining against each other, including a three-game series next weekend in Minnesota. The Twins lead the season series 5-4.

"I think they know already—and we know to play," Cleveland's Ronnie Belliard said. "They know they've got to prepare for the Indians."

Cleveland had won six straight and 10 of 11, taking the first two games of the series by six-run margins.

The Indians put two runners in scoring position in the ninth, but Juan Rincon (10-5) retired Beliard—who's only batter—on a line-out to center.

In the 10th, Lew Ford was hit by a pitch and Kofie hit a two-run homer from Rick White (4-5) to right-center for his 17th homer.

Joe Nathan pitched a perfect 10th for his 34th save in 35 chances, but he was not allowed a run in 27 appearances.

Mulholland gave the Twins a good start, allowing two runs and six hits in eight innings—the longest outing for the left-hander since 2000, when he was with Atlanta.

"He got us in place to win after getting shellacked here twice," Gardenhire said.

The Indians scored in the first inning for the third time in the series, but Mulholland was able to keep them from a big inning. Mulholland spent last season in the Indians' bullpen.

"I've got a lot of respect for those guys," he said. "They have some hot hitters."

Minnesota tied it in the sixth on pinch-hitter Jose Offerman's two-run double off Rafael Betancourt.

"It was a big relief for them," Indians starter Chad Durkin said. "We're a team that can contend, and I think they see that, too."

White Sox 5, Red Sox 4: Mark Buehrle (11-6) overcame a wild start, Carlos Lee had a home run and three RBIs and the White Sox got out of a ninth-inning jam.

Boston loaded the bases in the bottom of the ninth for the second



straight in-
ning, and
Jason Varitek
hit a two-run
single off Shin-
go Takatsu

that left runners at first and third with two outs. Orlando Cabrera, who had three hits, then hit a game-ending comebacker to Takatsu, who got his 12th save in 13 chances.

Chioles 11, Blue Jays 7: David Newhan tied a career high with four hits, including a go-ahead double in visiting Baltimore's eight-run eighth inning.

Newhan went 4-for-5 and Melvin Mora drove in three runs for the Orioles, who won their fourth straight series by taking three of four from Toronto. Baltimore has won 11 of 13 overall, but had to rally from a 7-1 deficit.

Mariners 7, Yankees 3: Edgar Martinez hit a go-ahead single and Miguel Olivo had two hits and two RBIs in a six-run seventh as the Mariners rallied from a 3-1 deficit and stopped the visiting St. Louis Cardinals' four-game winning streak.

Gil Meche (3-5) won his second straight start, giving up three runs—two earned—and seven hits in seven innings.

Rangers 6, Rays 2: Laynce Nix homered and drove in three runs, including a tie-breaking sacrifice fly, and the Rangers swept the three-game series at home.

Mark Teixeira also hit a two-run homer for the Rangers, and Ryan Drese (10-6) pitched 7 1/3 solid innings.

Jeffrey Huff hit his 22nd homer for the Devil Rays, who have lost six in a row and are 14-26 since moving a season-high two games over .500 at 40-38 on July 3.

Royals 6, Athletics 1: Joe Randa hit a three-run double with two outs in the seventh to spoil a strong start by Barry Zito (8-9), and visiting Kansas City surprised the AL West leaders by taking two of three.

Zack Greinke (5-9) won for the first time in seven road starts and the Royals got their sixth victory in their last 26 games away from Kauffman Stadium. Greinke gave up one run on six hits in seven innings.

Angels 3, Tigers 2: Darin Erstad doubled in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning, pulling the best out of him. Erstad grounded out Jason Johnson's 1-2 pitch down the line past first baseman Carlos Pena.



St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols, right, is congratulated by third base coach Jose Oquendo after hitting a two-run homer against the Atlanta Braves during the eighth inning in Atlanta on Sunday.

Rolen, Pujols power Cardinals to series victory over Braves

The Associated Press

ATLANTA—After an up-and-down year, Danny Haren savored his latest victory.

"When they come as far between as these last two have, you understand how hard it is to win a big league game," he said.

Scott Rolen homered twice to become the first NL player to reach 100 RBIs this season, and Haren won for the first time in more than a year, leading the St. Louis Cardinals past the Atlanta Braves 10-4 Sunday night.

Albert Pujols added another home run as the Cardinals won two of three in the battle of division leaders, handing Atlanta its first series loss since the end of June. St. Louis has the best road record in the major leagues at 40-19.

"Their record is definitely deserved," Cardinals manager Tony LaRussa said. "But we're good, too."

Rolen hit a pair of two-run drives off John Thomson (9-9) and reached 100 RBIs for the third straight season.

"I'm not trying to rack up personal accolades," Rolen said. "I'm not going to have a lot of success if I go out and try for personal goals."

Chipper Jones hit a solo homer for the Braves, giving him 1,000 career RBIs. He joined Hank Aaron, Eddie Mathews and Dale Murphy as the only players in franchise history to amass that total with the club.

Haren (1-2) limited the Braves to three runs and seven hits in five innings to win for the first time since he beat Pittsburgh on Aug. 11 last year. He started in place of Chris Carpenter, who was skipped because of stiffness in his lower back.

"He did an outstanding job," LaRussa said. "It's huge for him, and huge for us."

In his previous start, the 23-year-old Haren lasted only 3 1/3 innings against the Chicago Cubs, giving up 10 runs and 10 hits.

"That last game, it was just a fluke," Haren said. "By no means did I dwell on that. I just came out and tried to do my job."

Thomson, who lost for the first time in seven starts since July 3, gave up eight runs—four earned—and seven hits in four innings. Atlanta made three errors, including two in a six-run second inning, to increase its tally to 9-7, the third-most in the NL.

Atlanta was without right fielder J.D. Drew, who sat out with a strained right quadriceps.

Giants 3, Phillies 1: Brett Tomko allowed one run in six innings for his first win in nearly a month, helping visiting San Francisco complete a three-game sweep.

Tomko (6-6) allowed four hits, giving up his only run on Bobby Abreu's sixth-inning homer. He had been 0-1 in five starts since beating Arizona on July 19.

The Phillies lost for the sixth time in seven games.



Dodgers 8, Cubs 5: Adrian Beltré and Shawn Green homered, and Steve Finley hit a go-ahead RBI single to help the visiting Dodgers overcome a 5-3 deficit in the eighth. Milton Bradley drove in two runs in the eighth for Los Angeles.

Duaner Sanchez (3-1) pitched a scoreless seventh, and Eric Gagne got six outs for his 35th save. Kyle Farnsworth (4-4) was the loser.

Corey Patterson hit a two-run homer, and Ramon Martinez and Michael Barrett each hit solo shots for Chicago.

Padres 7, Reds 2: Adam Eaton (8-10) allowed two runs in the first inning but kept host Cincinnati scoreless over the next five, and also drove in two runs.

Eaton (8-10) gave up eight hits and one walk with eight strikeouts in six innings, and went 2-for-2 with two doubles, two runs scored and a sacrifice bunt.

Astros 5, Expos 4: Pinch-hitter Orlando Palmeiro singled home the go-ahead run off Luis Ayala (4-8) to cap a rally from a 4-2 deficit in the ninth, stopping Montreal's winning streak at a season-high seven. Visiting Houston had been 0-51 when trailing after eight innings.

Dan Miceli (5-6) allowed one run in two innings, and Brad Lidge got three outs for his 13th save in 15 chances. The Astros, six games back in the NL wild-card race, ended a four-game losing streak, winning for just the second time in eight games.

Marlins 5, Brewers 3: Luis Castillo tied the score with a ninth-inning single, and pinch-hitter Damon Easley hit a two-run double in the 10th off Ben Hendrickson (0-5).

Doug Davis pitched seven shutout innings for host Milwaukee, which took a 3-0 lead against Josh Beckett before Miguel Cabrera homered off Matt Wise in the ninth.

Alex Gonzalez reached on an error by second baseman Bill Hall leading off the ninth, and Juan Pierre stopped on a 0-for-18 slide with a one-out RBI triple off Dan Kolb.

Dionbackers 2, Mets 0: Randy Johnson (12-10) tied his season high with 14 strikeouts, allowing five hits in 8 1/3 innings, and Arizona started a nine-game losing streak in New York.

Steve Trachsel (10-9) gave up two runs and nine hits in 6 1/3 innings.

Pirates 3, Rockies 0: At Pittsburgh, Craig Wilson had three hits and two RBIs, and Josh Goss (7-8) allowed four hits in six innings to win for the first time in eight starts since July 2.

The game was interrupted by a fourth-inning fight that led to the ejection of Colorado starting pitcher Joe Kennedy (5-5) and Pirates catcher Jason Kendall, who was hit with a pitch.

Perseverance pays off: Singh wins PGA in playoff

By DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

HAVEN, Wis. — Vijay Singh grabbed the Wanamaker Trophy with both hands and lifted it high over his head Sunday at the PGA Championship, an unlikely victory built on the kind of resiliency that defines his life.

Two shots behind with three holes to play, he was headed for another meltdown in a major championship.

Singh knows better than anyone how not to lose hope.

Exiled to Borneo as a teaching pro, later a bouncer at a Scottish nightclub to pay bills while he kept his dreams alive, he emerged to become one of the best players in the world.

Singh confirmed his status with a stunning comeback at Whistling Straits, and the most timely birdie of his career.

"I just hung in there," Singh said after winning a three-way playoff over fast-fading Justin Leonard and Chris DiMarco. "I never gave up. I just said, 'I'm going to make a putt sooner or later.'"

Given new life when Leonard missed a 12-foot par putt in regulation — his sixth miss inside 12 feet on the back nine — Singh made his only birdie of the day from 6 feet on the first extra hole, and Leonard and DiMarco never came close to catching him the rest of the way.

Leonard and DiMarco never had a good look at birdie in the

Haas, Cink are Ryder picks

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Jay Haas became the second-oldest player to be on the Ryder Cup team, joining Stewart Cink as the two captain's picks Monday for a U.S. team that will try to regain the cup from Europe next month.

U.S. captain Hal Sutton said he considered five players for his two wild-card selections, but Haas and Cink were never far from his mind.

The 50-year-old Haas, who stayed away from the Champions Tour to try to make his first Ryder Cup team in nine years, was 10th in the standings going into the PGA Championship but closed with a 77 and dropped to No. 12.

Cink will play on the Ryder Cup for the second straight year. He was well back in the standings until closing strong at the Buick Open and the International to get high enough on the standings to get Sutton's attention.

"We've four weeks away from determining whether I made the right decision or the wrong decision," Sutton said.

Left off the team were Scott Verplank, a steady player who had an outstanding Ryder Cup at The Belfry two years ago, and Todd Hamilton, whose two victories this year include the British Open.

The matches will be Sept. 17-19 at Oakland Hills outside Detroit.

playoff, and they stood helplessly on the 18th green as Singh tapped in from 2 feet for par for his third career major.

It was an amazing turnaround for Singh, whose life is all about second chances.

He blew up in the final round at the U.S. Open and PGA Championship last year, and the 76 he shot in regulation Sunday on a grueling course along the shores of Lake Michigan put him in the record books for the wrong reason: It was the highest final round score ever by a PGA champion, and the highest in any major since Reg

Whitcombe shot 78 and won the 1938 British Open at Royal St. Georges.

"It looked ugly," Singh said of his score. "But it's the prettiest one, I think."

It was a nightmare for Leonard, who squandered a chance to earn a spot on the Ryder Cup team.

Playing in the final group at the PGA for the third time in eight years, he had a two-shot lead with five holes to play until his putter failed him. He missed from 16 feet for par on the 14th, 10 feet for birdie on the 15th, 5 feet for par on the 16th and 12 feet for par on the 18th, the most costly of them all.



Vijay Singh smiles after making birdie on the first hole of a three-hole playoff against Justin Leonard and Chris DiMarco at the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits in Haven, Wis., on Sunday.

"All I needed was one of them to go," said Leonard, who shot 75. "It's pretty hard to win a tournament, much less a major, when you do something like that."

DiMarco had an 18-foot birdie putt on the 18th in regulation that he left just short. He closed with a 71, the only player in the final nine groups to break par as Whistling Straits finally lived up to its fearsome reputation.

Given new life, Singh took advantage in the three-hole playoff.

He went with a driver on the 361-yard 10th hole, nearly driving the green and leaving himself a simple putt to 6 feet. When the putt fell, it was the first time Singh smiled all day.

"I waited all day for it, and it was a good time that it came," he said.

Singh then laced a 3-iron into 6 feet on the 236-yard 17th, although he missed that putt. Leonard and DiMarco needed birdie on the 18th and didn't come close — DiMarco in a bunker, Leonard so far away that he used a wedge to chip on the green. Neither finished the hole.

"This makes my year," Singh said. "I think this is the biggest accomplishment I've ever had in my whole career."

The consolation for DiMarco was a spot on the Ryder Cup team, moving to No. 8 in the standings.

Winning helps Stewart stomach Sirius at the Glen

The Associated Press

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. — Tony Stewart knew he was in trouble shortly after the start of the race, but overcame an upset stomach to win Sunday at Watkins Glen International.

"It started about the 15th or 17th lap," he said. "It got better toward the end, but I still don't feel well."

Stewart went back to his hauler as soon as he exited the car after winning the Sirius at the Glen. He was driven back to his motor coach in a golf cart to change his uniform and attempt to recover.

That delayed his celebration in victory lane, marking the third straight week that has happened in NASCAR. Jimmie Johnson was fined \$10,000 for violating protocol two weeks ago at Pocono by obscuring the product of a rival sponsor with a placard of his own.

Last week, Jeff Gordon stayed on the track at Indianapolis on the TV coverage ended. He said he was overcome by the emotion of his victory in the Brickyard 400, apologized and was not punished.

Asked if he really went back to his motorhome because he was playing the same game, Stewart, a practical joker, smiled broadly.

"No, I just wanted to go back and brush



Tony Stewart celebrates after winning the NASCAR Sirius at The Glen on Sunday.

my hair and look good for you guys," he said.

It was the second win for Stewart in the race, one of two road-course events each year on the NASCAR Nextel Cup circuit. Stewart's Chevrolet beat that of road-course star Ron Fellows by 1.517 seconds.

Finishing third in the \$4.6 million race

was Mark Martin in a Ford, followed by Casey Mears in a Dodge, and the Chevy of Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Pole-sitter Johnson blew an engine for the second week in a row but held the top spot by 40 points because teammate Gordon had a transmission problem late in the race. Gordon finished 21st and Johnson 40th.

"I just made a mistake," Johnson said. "We tried a little different shift. I came from second trying to hit third and fell right into first."

Bourdais overcomes early bump, wins Denver Grand Prix

DENVER — Sebastian Bourdais easily had the fastest car all week.

He needed it Sunday.

Bumped to 13th place coming out of the race's first turn, Bourdais weaved his way through the field and passed Paul Tracy with 10 laps left to win the Grand Prix of Denver.

"I was a beautiful one for sure," Bourdais said. "When you are at the pole and have a bad start and work your way from 13th to first, I think that is a good thing."

Bourdais earned the pole after becoming the first driver in race history to break the 1-minute barrier during qualifying, only to have his advantage taken away in the opening seconds when he was bumped by Newman-Haas teammate Bruno Junqueira.

But just as he has all season, Bourdais proved to have the car no one could match. He passed four cars to move into ninth place within 10 laps and kept working his way through the 1.65-mile course until he had won for the fifth time this year.

Bourdais took the checkered flag 7.446 seconds ahead of Tracy, celebrating the victory with a few doughnuts in front of the fans and a series of pit pumps as he headed to the pits. The Frenchman finished the 90-lap race in 1 hour, 40 minutes, 25.232 seconds (89.103 mph), increasing his Champ Car points lead to 56 over Junqueira.

Fernandez holds off Rice in Kentucky IRL race

SPARTA, Ky. — Adrian Fernandez posted the first win of his Indy Racing League IndyCar Series career, holding off Buddy Rice at Kentucky Speedway on Sunday.

Fernandez's victory in the Belterra Casino Indy 300 comes in his first year on the IRL circuit after winning eight times in Champ Car competition. The 39-year-old driver from Mexico City, who owns his own racing team, had a previous best finish of fifth in the IndyCar Series, at Texas Motor Speedway on June 12.

Fernandez beat Rice, a three-time series winner this year, by 0.0581 of a second. Dan Wheldon, Kosuke Matsuura and series points leader Tony Kanaan rounded out the top five.

Racing
roundup

Bryant prosecutors hit another snag

The Associated Press

EAGLE, Colo. — In another setback to the prosecution in the Kobe Bryant sexual assault case, the Colorado Supreme Court refused Monday to hear an appeal of a key ruling that allows the NBA star's attorneys to tell jurors about the accuser's sex life.

District Judge Terry Ruckriegle last month ruled that the defense can use information about the woman's sexual activities in the three days before her hospital exam, which occurred 15 hours after her encounter with Bryant.

In their one-page order, justices did not explain why they decided against considering the appeal. The order was released as Bryant's final pretrial hearing got under way Monday morning.

Prosecutors had filed the appeal only last week, with the Aug. 27 trial date approaching. The timing of the appeal, along with prosecutors' unsuccessful attempt to indefinitely delay the trial, had prompted widespread speculation about whether they would drop the case.

The 20-year-old accused filed a civil suit against Bryant in federal court last week, further complicating prosecutors' task and prompting Bryant's attorneys to accuse her in a court filing of simply seeking money.

During Monday's hearing, however, prosecutors appeared to be moving toward trial as scheduled. During Monday's closed-court hearing, prosecutors were scheduled to ask Ruckriegle to reconsider his decision allowing the defense to tell jurors about the accuser's alleged victim received from a victim compensation fund.

The defense has indicated it plans to tell jurors that the woman was given nearly \$20,000,

Sports briefs

far more than just for mental health care and other services. Details of their argument were filed under seal.

Pats signed first-rounder Watson

FOXBORO, Mass. — The New England Patriots signed first-round draft pick Benjamin Watson on Monday, ending the tight end's lengthy holdout.

Watson, a 23-year-old tight end out of Georgia, was the 32nd and last pick of the first round. His signing leaves quarterback Philip Rivers as the only unsigned first-rounder.

Watson signed after firing his agent, Tom Condon, last week, and hiring Pat Dye Jr. to represent him.

Czech hockey coach Hlinka dies in car accident

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — Ivan Hlinka, a former Pittsburgh Penguins coach who led the Czech Republic to a gold medal at the 1998 Nagano Olympics, died Monday after being injured in a car crash. He was 54.

Hlinka's car collided with a truck late Sunday night near Karlovy Vary, about 70 miles west of Prague. He was taken to a hospital. There, he died, team spokesman Pavel Barta said.

"Ivan Hlinka was hospitalized with serious injuries, despite all efforts he had not survive," hospital spokeswoman Zdenka Markova said, adding that Hlinka's most serious injuries were to his right arm and leg.

Hlinka was appointed Czech coach in May, and was set to lead the team at the World Cup of Hockey later this month.

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Monday's scores

BASEBALL
Taiwan & Australia 0
Croatia 6, Italy 1

BASKETBALL
Women
New Zealand 81, South Korea 73
(Japan 29, Nigeria 7)

United States 89, Czech Republic 63
Australia 66, Spain 64
Brazil 87, Greece 75

FIELD HOCKEY
Women
Argentina 3, South Africa 0
Australia 3, South Korea 0

Netherlands 3, South Korea 2
SOFTBALL
China 4, Canada 2

United States 3, Japan 0
Greece 1, Italy 1

Table Tennis
South Korea 3, Russia 3

TEAM HANDBALL
Croatia 29, Slovenia 24

Spain 3, Iceland 29
France 29, Greece 28

FUTBALL
Brazil 20, Brazil 19

Women
Brazil 3, Kenya 0 (25-17, 25-12)

China 3, Dominican Republic 0 (25-20, 25-12)

Italy 3, Japan 0 (25-11, 25-13, 25-15)

South Korea 1, Greece 1 (20-25, 25-19, 25-20)

France 3, Germany 1 (25-22, 25-22, 25-25)

WATER POLLO
United States 7, Hungary 6

Russia 8, Canada 6
Greece 8, Kazakhstan 6

Swimming
Men
100 Backstroke

1. Aaron Peirsol, Irvine, Calif., 54.06

2. Marko Radojevic, Zagreb, 54.35

3. Tomomi Morita, Japan, 54.36

4. Lenny Kraybill, West Hollywood, Calif., 54.63

5. Matt Welsh, Australia, 54.52

6. Michael Thurner, 1:46.29

7. Steffen Driesen, Germany, 54.63

8. Miron Dabovic, 1:46.29

200 Freestyle
1. Ian Thorpe, Australia, 17.17

2. Peter van den Hoogenband, Netherlands, 17.23

3. Michael Phelps, Towson, Md., 14.32

4. Kiefer Conner, Phoenix, 14.37

5. Grant Kachel, Australia, 14.56

6. Michael Hing, North Korea, 15.02

7. Simon Burnett, Britain, 14.62

8. Emiliano Bremonte, Italy, 14.40

Women
100 Backstroke

1. Natalie Coughlin, Concord, Calif., 1:00.37

2. Kristy Cottrell, 1:00.39

3. Laura Manaudou, France, 1:00.88

4. Miki Nakamura, Japan, 1:01.39

5. Nina Zhivotovskaya, Russia, 1:01.12

6. Katie Bertschinger, Germany, 1:01.39

7. Louisa Clough, 1:01.39

8. Haley Cooper, China, 1:01.76

200 Freestyle
1. Luo Xuejiao, China, 1:06.42

2. Kristy Cottrell, 1:06.42

3. Lisele Jones, Australia, 1:07.11

4. Kristy Cottrell, 1:07.11

5. Sarah Proulx, Germany, 1:07.53

6. Tara Kirk, Bremerton, Wash., 1:07.59

7. Svetlana Bondarevskaya, Ukraine, 1:08.19

8. Wu Hui, China, 1:08.19

Tennis
Men
Singles
Round 1

Roger Federer (1), Switzerland, def. Nikolay Davydenko, Russia, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3

Vincent Spadea, United States, def. Jurgen Melzer, Austria, 6-3, 6-1

Ivan Ljubicic, Croatia, def. Sargis Sargsian, Armenia, 6-3, 6-1

Tommy Robredo (15), Spain, def. Lamine Ouassani, Algeria, 6-3, 6-4

Uro Karlovic, Croatia, vs. Andrei Pavel (1), Romania, 6-3, 6-1, 6-2

Joachim Johansson, Sweden, def. Florin Mergea (12), Thailand, 6-3, 6-1

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

This American gang can't shoot straight

Decision to go with flash instead of fundamentals could cost U.S. a medal

ATHENS — The score may shock you but the result should not. In fact, it was entirely predictable if we look at what is instead of what was.

For first time in the 12 years NBA players have played in Olympic competition, the U.S. men's basketball team lost an Olympic game.

Michael Wilbon



It's only the third time the U.S. men have been beaten in Olympic play, which is why Puerto Ricans screamed they had "shocked the world" in the immediate aftermath of their very thorough 92-73 manhandling of the U.S. team.

Unquestionably, the first defeat of a team of American NBA players sends reverberations throughout the basketball world, probably even the entire world of sports. In 1972 the U.S. team was cheated out of victory, which was given to Russia. In 1988 the U.S. sent a bunch of college kids to Seoul, where they lost to a Russian team full of pro players. But there's no asterisk to attach to this defeat, no extenuating circumstances, no controversial ending or inequity of talent.

Anybody who wanted to see this defeat coming could see it as clear as an onrushing train. Teams from San Juan to China have spent the past 12 years creating clever strategies and exploring every nuance of the game's fundamentals, while Americans obsessed over dunking and reassured each other we were keepers of the global game.

Well, apparently not this time, not this tournament and not with this team. The Puerto Ricans didn't just win, they were better. The U.S. players and Larry Brown talked predictably after-

ward about not wanting it enough about being flat at the beginning of the game. And it's all such a bunch of junk. It's just easier to take excuse than to face the fact that the other team is better, that its pieces fit better and functions with a smarter purpose.

USA Basketball put together a team to market, not a team to win. And this isn't about Shaq and Kevin Garnett and Tracy McGrady not playing.

The U.S. team didn't need more rebounding, strength or girth Sunday night against Puerto Rico; it needed shooters. But this U.S. team doesn't have any. This U.S. team has Tim Duncan and 11 guys who do the same thing: go to the rack. USA Basketball wants to sell sodas and jerseys and whatever else is being marketed. Brent and Jon Barry didn't turn down an invitation to play on this team, not that I know of. Fred Hoiberg would have paid his own way to Greece and slept on a dormitory bed with no pillows to play on this team. Casey Jacobsen didn't say he wouldn't come, nor did Brian Cardinal.

They're shooters. Not stars, but shooters.

The U.S. team's problem isn't lack of effort, it's lack of skill.

While starters Puerto Rico made eight of 16 three-point shots, the U.S. marketing machine was making three of 24. A Puerto Rican guard named Eddie Casiano hit all four of the three-point shots, including one while being fouled and another from 30 feet just to rub it in during the final seconds of the game.

If you can't shoot the three-point in international basketball, you can't win.

You know who the best three-point shooter on the U.S. team is? Richard Jefferson of the New Jersey Nets. He's the 47th-ranked three-point shooter in the NBA. That's 47th. When Carlos Arroyo, Puerto Rico's point guard, was asked whether his team was concerned with any



Team USA's Allen Iverson falls over Puerto Rico's Carlos Arroyo during a preliminary match at the Athens Olympics on Sunday. The American shot 3-for-25 from three-point range and suffered their most embarrassing Olympic loss ever, 92-73. The U.S. needs to beat Greece Tuesday to stay in medal contention.

U.S. player shooting well from the outside, he said, "Not really... They don't have any spot-up shooters... They have more off-the-dribble shooters and free-style players."

Knowing this, Puerto Rico packed in a zone defense designed to take away the player they most respected, Duncan.

"We knew they didn't have any good shooters," Puerto Rico forward Daniel Santiago said. "Rolando Houriutierrez fronted Tim... I or Jose Ortiz got in back of him, and we just packed it in... I mean, really packed it in and dared them to shoot. Sometimes I was out on Richard Jefferson, and I was letting him shoot it... They've got penetrators and slashers, so you lay off and let them take those shots."

That's the scouting report, ladies and gentlemen. The team from the country where basketball was invented can't shoot a lick... Well, not the guys on this team anyway.

"They're great going to the basket, they're great rebounding, and they're really strong," Arroyo said.

Asked again about the shooting issues, he just smiled.

Allen Iverson and Stephon Marbury are scorers, but they couldn't win a game of H-O-R-S-E against half the 12-year-olds in the state of Indiana. Lamar Odom, Richard Jefferson, Carmelo Anthony, LeBron James, Shawn Marion, Dwayne Wade, Amare Stoudemire... they're all basically the same player. Slash, jump, throw it down. Looks nice on "SportsCenter." It's worthless in international play, now that kids in Europe, South America and Asia are big and quick enough to settle back into a zone and play better defense than they could back in the

early 1990s.

Three for 21 isn't indicative of a bad night; it's reflective of a bunch of guys who can't shoot from the perimeter. And keep in mind, while the NBA three-point arc is at 23 feet, 9 inches, the international

three-point is at 20 feet, 6 inches. That's more than 3 feet closer, and U.S. players still can't shoot it. Is Shaq going to help with that? Jermaine O'Neal going to bury some threes? Ben Wallace? Karl Malone? The only guys who said

"thanks, but no thanks" who would have mattered in this competition are Ray Allen and Mike Bibby. And even then it might not make it this U.S. team a great team.

Fact is, Earvin Johnson, Larry Bird, Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen, Charles Barkley, David Robinson, Clyde Drexler, Patrick Ewing, John Stockton, Karl Malone and Chris Mullin are not walking through that door again, to borrow a thought from Rick Pitino.

That team won by an average margin of 43.8 points. The 1996 team, which had Malone, Pippen, Stockton, Robinson and Barkley, won by an average of 31.7 points per game. The 2000 team won by an average of 21.6 points.

This year's team? The average is down to 7.8 points for the quali-

fying games. Not only do teams no longer fear the U.S. players, they all want a piece of them. Twelve years ago the international players posed for pictures with the Dream Team before and after

games. Sunday night, Arroyo and several members of Team Puerto Rico apologized for celebrating a little too enthusiastically.

"I know it looked kind of cocky," he said about emphatically pointing to his jersey toward the end of the game, "and I'm sorry about that."

Arroyo, bless his heart, did nothing for what he needed to apologize, unless he wants to whisper a little something to Stoudemire after making him look like a champ with a move to the basket early in the game. Arroyo is part of this new world order.

"The game," U.S. coach Larry Brown said with a sigh, "has gotten so much better around the world."

Well, everywhere except perhaps the United States, where it isn't better than it was 12 years ago, where folks are scratching their heads wondering what went wrong, like the U.S. players having failed to pay attention to an entire world gaining ground for a dozen years.

Michael Wilbon is a sports columnist for The Washington Post.

U.S. coach Larry Brown expresses his frustration as his team is routed Sunday. USA Basketball did not invite any pure shooters to be on the team, a weakness savvy international squads are taking advantage of.



AP

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Parker takes his shot, comes up short

Army marksman finishes eighth, has world record eclipsed by Zhu

By TOM PETERSON
Knight Ridder/Tribune

ATHENS — No medal. No more world record.

But as time softens the sting of a disappointing day in Athens, Sgt. 1st Class Jason Parker can find plenty of pride in another "no."

No excuses. Not on a day when he had one ready-made.

The 30-year-old Georgian finished eighth in the men's Olympic air rifle competition Monday, a rough finish for the Army shooter expected to contend for the gold.

Parker could have blamed a malfunctioning trigger that forced an in-competition adjustment during the middle of qualifying. He could have blamed the distraction. He could have blamed all that last time to ponder the guy next to him, China's Zhu Qinan, who opened the day with five perfect 10s in the six-series set and went on to take the gold and Parker's record.

"I got it fixed," Parker said as the rifle. "No excuses. ... It takes just the right person, the right day. I just didn't do it."

But what Parker would say, teammate Matt Emmons would say. "He had trigger problems," said Emmons, who finished ninth. "I still hang in there and make the finals is tough."

In one of the Games' most precise sports, in which competitors aim at a bull's-eye the size of a



Sgt. 1st Class Jason Parker rests his weapon between shots during the men's air rifle finals Monday in Athens. Parker finished in eighth place as China's Zhu Qinan won gold and eclipsed Parker's world record.

newspaper period, the difference between gold and goat can be one small twitch or a mis-timed breath. Zhu scored 702.7 points; countryman and silver medalist Li Jie was at 701.3 and Jozef Genczi of Slovakia won the bronze at 697.4. Zhu beat Parker's record, set in June 2002, by two-tenths of a point.

Parker, from Cusseta, Ga., had started strong Monday, opening with a perfect 100 in the first of six qualifying 10-shot series, but he dropped to 99 on his second series. Then, with his trigger forcing his shot too early, he hit back-to-back 98s. Through four

rounds, he had dropped four shots to perfection.

"I was well prepared," said Parker, a member of the Army marksmanship unit at Ft. Benning, Ga. "I'm really proud of everything I did."

Parker squeaked into the finals via a tiebreaker over Emmons and two other shooters at 594, but he was five points behind Zhu with only 10 shots to make it up in the finals. The gap was too large. Zhu, who had scored 599 out of possible 600 points during qualifying, scored in the 10s on all but one shot in the finals.

"To do that in the Olympics, he's a champion," Parker said.

With his Olympics done, Parker is headed home early to Ft. Benning.

After a fifth-place finish at the 2000 Olympics and an eighth Monday, Parker said he'll ponder his future and decide if he will make a run for Beijing in 2008. But moments after the finals, he already was thinking about it.

"You can learn from this," he said, looking ahead, not back.

But Emmons took a glance back at Parker's trigger problems.

"I'd like to see what would have happened if that didn't happen to him," he said.

China's Shi takes gold with record-setting lift

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Gold medalist Shi Zhiyong of China broke the Olympic snatch record in the 137-pound (62kg) weightlifting class Monday.

Olympic medals roundup

raising pounds (152.5kg), and tied world and Olympic records for total lift.

Shi broke the snatch record of 330½ pounds (150kg) set by gold medalist Nikola Petic of Croatia in the 2000 Sydney Olympics. The world record is 336½ pounds (153kg) by Shi, set in 2001.

Shi's total lift of 716 pounds (325kg) tied Peshalov's world record, also set in Sydney.

Shi's victory added to China's Olympics-leading 10 gold medals. With two medal events remaining on Monday, China led in total medals with 15, while Australia and the United States were even

with 12 medals each. Australia has six golds, and the U.S. has three.

In the women's 53-kilogram class, Chen Yanqing of China won the gold with a total of 523.5 points (237.7kg).

Ri Song Hui of North Korea got the silver. Wandee Kameaim of Thailand won the bronze.

Diving

Women's 10-meter synchronized platform: Lao Lishi and Li Ting of China won the gold with a score of 352.14.

Natalia Goncharova and Yulia Koltunova of Russia got the silver with 340.92 points. Blythe Hartley and Emilie Heymans of Canada took the bronze at 327.78.

Americans Cassandra Cardinell and Sara Hildebrand placed seventh.

Fencing

Men's foil: France's Brice Guyot rallied from an early deficit in the final to defeat Italy's Salva-

to Sanzo.

Sanzo won the first four points of the championship bout, but Guyot took five of the next six to tie it. The lead went back and forth until Guyot finished off the bout with a touch to Sanzo's belly.

Earlier, Andrea Cassara of Italy defeated Russia's Renal Ganeev 15-12 to take the bronze.

Judo

Men's 73kg: World champion Lee Won-hee of South Korea defeated American Jimmy Pedro in the third round and went on to claim the gold medal in the 73kg class, beating Vitaliy Makarov of Russia in the final.

Pedro bounced back for a bronze, which he shared with Leonardo Guilherme of Brazil.

Lee and Pedro had been the focus of the competition ever since the draw was announced.

Pedro, a 1996 bronze medalist and four-time Olympian, ended Lee's 48-match winning streak last December. Pedro (Lawrence,

Mass.) retired after the Sydney Olympics before making a comeback.

After losing to Lee, Pedro had to fight his way through the repechage bracket to win the bronze medal.

Women's 57kg: Yvonne Boenisch of Germany reversed a loss last year to North Korea's Kye Sun Hui by upsetting the two-time world champion in the final.

Deborah Graevenstijn of the Netherlands and Yurielady Lupety of Cuba each took bronze.

Shooting

Women's trap: Suzanne Balogh of Australia pulled away from the field to win the gold medal in trap shooting.

Maria Quintanal of Spain took the silver and South Korea's Lee Bo-na won the bronze.

Collyn Loper of Birmingham, Ala., moved into medal position by making her first 13 shots of the finals. She missed four of her next seven and finished a shot behind Lee in fourth place.

U.S. boxer Escobedo records stoppage

By TIM DAHLBERG
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — They wished cars, put up posters and sold T-shirts to raise the money to be here. When it was finally time for Vicente Escobedo to fight, his family and friends welcomed him into the arena by waving his picture and chanting "Chente, Chente."

They had worked hard and came a long way to see Escobedo in the ring. The American lightweight wasn't about to let them down.

With his excited group of fans cheering him on, Escobedo dominated from the opening bell Monday to stop Jose David Mosquera of Colombia in the third round and keep the United States undefeated through three Olympic bouts.

"I had to win today," Escobedo said. "That's what I came here to do."

Escobedo's mother and two brothers stood at the railing overlooking the ring cheering him on, part of a handful of friends and family who got to Athens only after raising \$25,000 in a series of fund-raisers.

A sports bar in his hometown of Woodlands, Calif., contributed some money while family members raised the rest by selling T-shirts with pictures of Escobedo on it and washing a lot of cars.

He gave them all something to see, starting quickly and never letting up against Mosquera before the fight was finally stopped 31 seconds into the third round by the mercy rule with Escobedo ahead 30-10.

Escobedo advanced to a Friday fight against Rovshan Huseynov of Azerbaijan, while also keeping intact a modest U.S. winning streak.

Cuban fighters also remained unbeaten in the tournament with Luis Vazquez winning a featherweight bout.

"We're on a winning streak and hopefully we can keep it up," Escobedo said. "It gave me a lot of confidence knowing my teammates and family were cheering me on."

The son of immigrant farm workers who began boxing to get away from the temptations of gang life, Escobedo wasn't considered one of the top U.S. prospects coming into the year.

But after losing at the U.S. championships in January, he has gone through six competitions without a loss and appears to be peaking at the right time.

"I've accomplished my dream by being here," he said. "Now it's one more, to win a gold medal."

Escobedo joins four other Americans in the second round. Welterweight Vanes Martirosyan and middleweight Andre Dirrell won over the weekend, while light heavyweight Andre Ward and light welterweight Rock Allen drew byes into the second round.

SPORTS



Army marksman
Parker falls short
of medal, Page 31

Phelps' bid Thorpedoed



Ian Thorpe, above, smiles after winning the 200-meter freestyle during the Olympics on Monday. Thorpe's win ended the quest of American Michael Phelps, right, to tie Mark Spitz's record of seven gold medals.

U.S. teen won't match Spitz's golden record

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The kid couldn't catch the Thorpedo — and he won't be catching Mark Spitz, either.

Michael Phelps' quest for seven gold medals ended after just three events, doomed by another bronze Monday night in the most anticipated race at the Olympic pool — the head-to-head showdown with Australia's Ian Thorpe in the 200-meter freestyle.

Thorpe has ruled this event for years, but Phelps couldn't resist seeing what he could do against the man in black — part of the larger goal to break Spitz's record from the 1972 Munich Games.

His long arms churning smoothly through the azure water, Thorpe passed Pieter van den Hoogenband in the homestretch, finishing with an Olympic record of 1 minute, 44.71 seconds. The Dutchman's time was 1:45.23, while Phelps never caught the top two.

Medal count				
Leaders after 37 medal events in the 2004 Olympics through Monday, Aug. 16:				
Country	G	S	B	Total
China	10	4	1	15
Australia	6	2	4	12
United States	3	4	5	12
Russia	1	5	2	8
France	2	2	3	7
Japan	4	1	1	6
Italy	2	2	1	5
Netherlands	0	2	3	5
Turkey	2	0	1	3
Ukraine	2	0	1	3
Germany	1	1	1	3
Hungary	1	1	1	3

As he touched the wall, Thorpe quickly looked at the scoreboard and thrust a fist in the air, yelling as if to say "Take that!" when he saw a "1" beside his name — and a "2" beside van den Hoogenband.

Van den Hoogenband, the defending Olympic champion, pulled off a shocking upset of

Thorpe four years ago at Sydney. He got off to a quick start and was more than 1 second under world-record pace at the halfway point, but he couldn't maintain it and finished with the silver.

"Well, now we are even," said Thorpe, who won the fifth gold medal of his career and second of the Athens Games.

The 19-year-old from Baltimore was third most of the way, setting an American record of 1:45.32 that was only good enough for bronze.

"It was tough racing the two greatest freestylers of all time," Phelps said. "I had fun out there. I did what I wanted to do."

Thorpe and van den Hoogenband quickly clasped hands, while an exhausted Phelps clung to a lane rope, watching a replay of the race on the video board. Finally, he came over to congratulate his two rivals, then turned to swim out of the pool on the opposite side.



On his way off the deck, Phelps turned to take one final glance at the scoreboard before he disappeared behind the stands.

Even though he'll fall short of Spitz, Phelps has plenty of swimming left in Athens. He returned to the pool just 52 minutes later for the semifinals of the 200 butterfly. There's still the very real possibility that he'll win eight medals — they just won't all be gold.

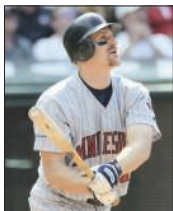
SEE THORPE ON PAGE 30



Singh needs
playoff to win
PGA Championship
Page 27



Ailing Stewart
hangs on to win
Sirius at the Glen
Page 27



Late rally helps
Twins edge
Indians
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